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Tunisian premier arrives in Morocco
MARRAKESH (R) — Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in this Atlas mountain town Sunday carrying a message for King Hassan from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the official MAP news agency reported. Baccouche's visit follows a visit to Tunisia last month by Moroccan Prime Minister Aziz Akhachich and comes at a time of shifting regional alliances in the Maghreb. Ben Ali is to visit Morocco's arch-rival Algeria Monday on his first trip out of the country since becoming president on Nov. 7 last year when Habib Bourguiba was declared senile and unfit to govern. In another development, the Algerian-backed Polisario Liberation Front, fighting a 12-year-old desert war for the independence of the Western Sahara, has called on Morocco to enter direct talks to end the conflict. The Algerian APS news agency reported Sunday that the Polisario's executive committee, at a meeting Thursday, repeated its willingness to work with the United Nations to bring peace to the former Spanish colony.

Mellor: Iran embargo in sight
BAHRAIN (R) — The Soviet Union appears ready to agree to a U.N. arms embargo against Iran and a Security Council resolution could be in place within three weeks, a British minister said Sunday. David Mellor, minister of state for foreign affairs, said Britain would be prepared to consider a demand from Moscow that an embargo come into force after a 30- to 60-day waiting period to allow for further negotiations to end the Iran-Iraq war (See page 2). "If that is the price that the Soviet Union wishes to extract to agree to the resolution, then I guess we shall have to agree it is a price worth paying," Mellor told reporters. The British minister, touring the Middle East to discuss the Gulf war and efforts to solve the Palestinian crisis, also condemned what he called Israeli brutality in occupied territories. He said television pictures of Israeli soldiers breaking the arms of Palestinian youth, widely shown in Western Europe and the United States, had been particularly shocking. Mellor is due in Amman Monday on a two-day official visit.

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Regent congratulates new Cypriot president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable to Cypriot President George Vassiliou congratulating him on his election as president. Prince Hassan praised relations between both countries and expressed hope that ties would be further developed. Prince Hassan wished the Cypriot president continued good health and the Cypriot people further progress and prosperity.

Saudi leader holds talks with Hmoud

RIYADH (Petra) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz received in Riyadh Sunday Jordanian Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud and reviewed with him bilateral relations in the field of agriculture. Hmoud earlier held similar talks with his Saudi counterpart Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Aziz Al Sheikh. Hmoud arrived in Riyadh Saturday to discuss exchange of agricultural products between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

French minister begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — French Minister of Telecommunications Gerard Longuet arrived Sunday in Amman at the head of a delegation on a working visit. Longuet will spend two days of talks with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan and other officials.

Demonstration at Israel embassy in Brussels

BRUSSELS (AP) — Two hundred people demonstrated Sunday outside the Israeli embassy to protest "the barbarian repression" of the Israeli army in the occupied Arab territories. The protesters disbanded peacefully after chanting slogans against Israel and in favour of Palestinian rights.

Two hanged in Tehran

NICOSIA (R) — Two men were hanged Sunday in a north Tehran square where they had planted a bomb, Iran's national news agency IRNA reported. IRNA gave no further details but several people were killed and dozens injured when a car bomb exploded in front of a hospital on Tajrish Square in December 1985. The hangings brought to 14 the number of Iranians executed since last December.

Ozal in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal arrived in Tehran Sunday for three days of talks on the Iran-Iraq war and economic cooperation. Iran's national news agency IRNA reported. IRNA said Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi welcomed Ozal after he flew into Tehran's international airport with a 35-member delegation. Ozal, who is due to visit Iraq in April, told the agency earlier that Turkey would remain neutral in the war between its two neighbours.

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Settlers, soldiers storm Arab village, kill 3 Palestinians

ABUD, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Jewish settlers and army soldiers clashed with Palestinians in this West Bank village and three Arabs were shot to death, the army said Sunday.

Details of the incident Saturday night were sketchy. Soldiers twice turned away an AP reporter who tried to enter the village 30 kilometres northwest of Jerusalem to question witnesses. The army confirmed armed settlers were in Abud, and Arab reports said the victims died from civilians' bullets. Another incident involving settlers was reported about the same time in Ein Arak, near Ramallah, but there were no deaths or injuries. According to two Abud residents who did not see the clash but said they learned of it from neighbours, about 15 military and civilian vehicles entered Abud about 9:30 p.m. They were preceded by a bulldozer which knocked down a rock barrier across the road. The two witnesses, who declined to be identified, told the AP they heard gunshots. They said they were told soldiers and civilians were doing a lot of shooting in the village of 3,000. One victim was shot in his house, and the other outside, they said, adding that the incident did not end until about 2 a.m. Officials in the Ramallah hospital said the two victims died about midnight. They were identified as Raed Mahmoud Awad Barghouti, 17, shot in the head, and his cousin Ahmad Ibrahim Mustafa Barghouti, 22, shot in the stomach. Another victim, 17-year-old Majed Al Atarah from Halhoul, died at Jerusalem's Mokassad hospital. An Arab source, who spoke with a relative of one victim, said villagers also blamed the settlers. At Ein Arak, villagers said six carloads of settlers entered the village Saturday night, smashed the windows in a van and several houses, stoned homes and fired guns into the air. One villager showed about 20 empty cartridge casings found on the roadway. Israeli soldiers shot and wounded an Arab teenager when they opened fire to disperse a big demonstration in the village of Dahariya, witnesses said. A large crowd of demonstrators hurled tyres, stoned troops and barricaded the main Hebron-Beersheba road in the village of Dahariya, witnesses said. Protests were also reported in numerous other areas, including Khan Yunis and the Shati refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, the Ramallah area, Yatta, near Hebron and around Nabulus. A military spokesman said the army has arrested a soldier on suspicion of killing a Palestinian protester a month ago. The daily Yediot Ahronot, quoted witnesses, said the soldier caught a stonethrower in the Gaza Strip, stuck a rifle in his stomach, and shot him.

2 killed in Israeli attack on Palestinian boat; 3 escape

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Two Palestinian commandos heading for an attack on Israel were killed and three swam to safety when an Israeli gunboat sank their dinghy off the Lebanese coast, police said Sunday. The vessel was spotted by an Israeli naval patrol off this southern town Saturday night, police said. "There was a clash. Two of the guerrillas were killed while three swam to the shore," said one source quoted by Reuters. The commando squad belonged to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC, police said. The PFLP-GC had claimed responsibility for an attack on an army base in northern Israel by a commando who flew a motorised hang-glider across the border from southeast Lebanon Dec. 26. Six Israeli soldiers were killed and eight wounded by hand grenades and gunfire before the commando was shot and killed. In Tel Aviv, an army spokesman said Sunday a navy patrol off the Tyre coast sank a boat which was on its way to attack Israel, but did not say if it carried Palestinians or how many casualties there were. Several Palestinian groups have vowed to step up attacks against Israel to support the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. A Tyre security source told Reuters at least four Israeli patrol boats were cruising waters off the port town Sunday after they opened heavy machinegun fire along the coast overnight. "They feared there might be another guerrilla boat so they strafed the coastal strip with heavy machinegun fire," he said. On Saturday, an Israeli spokesman said four Soviet-made Katyusha missiles exploded in Galilee Friday night without causing any damage. The Katyushas were probably fired from southern Lebanon, the Israeli news agency Itim reported. It was the second time in 24 hours rockets were fired at Israel, the agency said. In another incident, the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said it killed three guerrillas after they staged a dawn attack Sunday. The SLA-run Voice of Hope radio said militiamen at Beit Yaoun position on the edge of Israel's self-declared South Lebanon "security zone" killed the raiders. The diplomats noted that the tone of the threats and counter-charges was reminiscent of the war of the cities, which ended by mutual but unofficial agreement early last year. Iran threatened reprisal attacks on Baghdad and Basra for an Iraqi air raid which it said killed 25 civilians and injured many others in the western Kurdish town of Saqqez Saturday. Baghdad denied its jets attacked Saqqez. Iran also said one person was killed and several injured in an Iraqi raid on a non-military area near Tehran. Iraq said its jets set ablaze a major oil refinery in the raid as part of its policy to destroy Iran's economic installations. Tehran residents reported black smoke rising from the direction of Rey refinery, south of the Iranian capital, for at least two hours after the Iraqi attack. The Rey complex, with an output capacity of 220,000 barrels a day, is Iran's second largest operating refinery and has been bombed several times since the war broke out in September 1980. The Iraqi communique said Sunday's decision to attack Iranian cities followed 24 hours of intensive Iranian shelling of Iraqi civilian areas.

Clergymen vow to step up anti-apartheid activities

BONTEHEUWEL, South Africa (R) — Anti-apartheid church leaders vowed Sunday to step up their opposition to the South African government after a crackdown on black dissent, even if it meant being sent to prison. Black Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu and coloured (mixed-race) churchman Allan Boesak said the church must take a greater role fighting the virtual banning of 17 anti-apartheid groups last week. "Let us no longer pussyfoot around this issue. This is an illegitimate government that deserves no authority and does not have it... that deserves no obedience and must not get it. The church must show another way," Boesak told a service in Cape Town's Bonteheuwel township called to protest the curbs. Boesak, president of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, hinted that the churches would call for civil disobedience against the government. "The purpose of my address is purely one: when we call upon our people from the church to engage in acts of civil disobedience... that our people will be obedient not to our voice but to the voice of God and that we shall rise up to do what is necessary in the name of God," he said. "For myself, I will defy these laws and I will call upon our people to defy them also," Boesak told the multiracial congregation of about 300 people. "If I have to go to jail for this step so be it... I would rather go to jail and be in the company of Nelson Mandela than sit in the tricameral parliament and be in the company of (President) P.W. Botha," he said. Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, was jailed for life in 1964 for plotting to overthrow white rule.

Crown Prince underlines Jordan's interest in developing Arab-Soviet ties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday voiced Jordan's delight in hosting an Arab-Soviet dialogue next month as part of activities of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), and said that such meetings were bound to promote bilateral cooperation and enhance ties of friendship between the Arab World and the Soviet Union. The Regent, speaking at a meeting with a visiting Soviet delegation led by Religions Affairs Council Chairman Constantine Kharachev, said Jordan believes in "middle-ground policy" and "pluralism, which helps to enrich the cultural movement" and therefore the Amman-based ATF was calling on Soviet scientists and scholars to take part in its meetings. The Crown Prince said the December meeting in Moscow between His Majesty King Hussein and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was in harmony with this course of policy. The ATF takes interest in studying Islamic culture and in highlighting various cultures, the Regent noted. The Crown Prince referred to the importance of Islamic manuscripts and their translation and publication, and said the ATF would welcome any activity in this respect. Kharachev paid tribute to King Hussein.



Shultz speaks of 'promising package'

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz held three hours of talks on Middle East peace ideas with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Sunday and said: "We both feel that we have a package that is promising." His remarks to reporters indicated he felt he had made headway in Cairo with proposals that appeared to have run into problems earlier in Israel, Jordan and Syria. Shultz and Mubarak met with aides present for three hours before the secretary of state flew back to Israel to continue his peace mission. "As our ideas develop, I think I can say we both feel that we have a package that is promising," Shultz said after the talks at Egypt's presidential palace in suburban Heliopolis. "At least, we (the United States) think that it is promising. But whether anybody else will think it is promising is a question. But we (the United States and Egypt) will be working together to make that so," he said. Mubarak did not speak to reporters after the talks. Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid stood by Shultz's side as he spoke but did not respond. Shultz did not specify details of the package but said the aim of the U.S.-Egyptian talks was a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. "That means that we have to consider all the countries involved, we have to consider security issues, we have to consider the Palestinian people, their aspirations, their legitimate rights, and we have discussed all these matters in some detail," he said. "His mission was spurred by 11 weeks of clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza in which at least 77 Palestinians have been killed. Shultz was due to fly from Israel, here for his peace shuttle, to Jordan Monday for more talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. U.S. officials said he would not be going to Saudi Arabia on his present mission, but Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was likely to go to Riyadh and Damascus in a few days. The officials also discounted speculation that Shultz might hold talks with Palestinian representatives as part of his shuttle. Shultz ran up earlier against solid insistence from Arab officials that an international conference, grouping the big powers, Arab states, Israelis and Palestinians, was the only appropriate forum. Israel's ruling coalition is deeply split on the conference proposal. Early Sunday, Shultz held separate talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, flatly opposed to a conference, and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who favours the idea as an umbrella for peace talks. Shultz said Mubarak urged Reagan in Washington last month to send him on his current mission "and we have taken his advice." Washington has not published details of its ideas, which centre on Palestinian "self-rule" in the occupied territories to pave the way for Arab-Israeli negotiations. But Jordan, Egypt and other Arab states have told the United States to forget revival of Palestinian "autonomy" proposals in the Camp David accord. The director-general of Shamir's office, Yossi Ben-Aharon, said Shultz was not pressing Israeli and Arab leaders for commitments to a formal peace plan but (Continued on page 5)

Assad said to have hinted at Syrian help to free Higgins

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has hinted to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that Syria may be able to help free kidnapped Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, a U.S. official said Sunday. The official, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, said Assad told Shultz during his visit to Damascus Saturday that he had "some ideas" about Higgins' case. The official said Shultz and Assad talked about situation in Lebanon but declined to elaborate. "We can't get into it," he said when pressed for details. Higgins, 43, headed a U.N. observer team attached to the U.N. peacekeeping force in South Lebanon. He was kidnapped Feb. 17 while returning to U.N. headquarters in Naqoura from the port city of Tyre. A pro-Iranian faction calling itself the "Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth" claimed responsibility. "Abduction imperils Shi'ites" A senior Lebanese militia official said Sunday the abduction of Higgins had imperilled Lebanon's Shi'ite Muslim sect. "This is the first abduction that has brought the sect's two giants close to a head-on collision," said Abdul Majid Saleh, chief political officer of Justice Minister Nahih Berry's mainstream Shi'ite Amal militia in South Lebanon. The Syrian-backed Amal has been at loggerheads with the Iranian-backed Hizbollah since Higgins was kidnapped. Amal has viewed the abduction as a challenge to its dominance in the Tyre region and has vowed to leave no stone unturned in South Lebanon to rescue Higgins. Most of the other 24 other foreigners held hostage in Lebanon since March 1983 had been kidnapped in west Beirut. Their abduction caused no inter-Shi'ite friction. "I think Higgins' is more of a peril to the Shi'ite community than to the United States," Saleh told reporters in Tyre. "It has been threatening to kindle an inter-communal strife." Saleh said an unidentified third party was currently engaged in a mediation effort to ensure Higgins' release and head off an Amal-Hizbollah clash. The "Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth" is an underground Shi'ite faction believed linked to Hizbollah.

Pravda: START can be ready in time for summit

MOSCOW (R) — Pravda said Sunday that a superpower treaty reducing strategic nuclear missiles could be ready for signing at a spring summit and wondered why doubts had been expressed on the American side. The Communist Party newspaper said the Soviet Foreign Ministry had been surprised by President Ronald Reagan's remark that he doubted the strategic arms reduction treaty (START) would be ready for signing at the Moscow summit. Soviet officials say the meeting will take place late in May. In an interview published in the Washington Post Friday, Reagan said: "I have to tell you that common sense indicates that the time is too limited for us to really think that we could bring a treaty ready for signature to that meeting." Pravda countered: "If there is good will to complete the work in Geneva by the forthcoming summit meeting, it is quite possible. 'Soviet and U.S. negotiators are working on the START treaty at arms reduction talks in Geneva. Pravda added, however, that Moscow linked the signing of a strategic arms treaty with a simultaneous agreement to continue observing the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile system (ABM) treaty limiting missile defences. The Kremlin says the ABM treaty, strictly interpreted, forbids development of a space-based missile defence system such as the Reagan administration's "Star Wars" project.

Vassiliou sworn in, proposes talks with Turkish premier

NICOSIA (R) — New Cypriot President George Vassiliou was sworn in Sunday and invited Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal to talks on reunification of the divided island. "I consider it necessary to have as soon as possible, a personal meeting with... Mr. Ozal at a place and date of his choice," Vassiliou told parliament after the swearing-in ceremony. Vassiliou, a millionaire economist, was elected last Sunday by the island's Greek-Cypriot voters after a hotly debated campaign that centred on reunifying the island, divided since 1974 when Turkish troops occupied the northern sector. The new president told journalists talks with Ozal should include such issues as the withdrawal of Turkish troops and settlers from northern Cyprus. The Turkish occupation followed a short-lived coup engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece. Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denkash declared an independent republic in 1983, a move recognised only by Turkey. Earlier this week Vassiliou said he would not meet Denkash as long as the Turkish-Cypriot leader insisted they meet on an equal footing as presidents of their respective states. Denkash was quoted in the Turkish-Cypriot media as saying political equality should be the basis for a proposed federal solution to the problem of the divided island. Vassiliou charged in his inaugural address that Turkish troops in Cyprus were being reinforced and equipped with modern arms. He said defence would be a top priority for his government. He blamed Turkey for a deadlock in U.N. efforts to reunite the island but said he would actively seek rapprochement with Turkish Cypriots. "We hope to have Turkish-Cypriot members of parliament with us again soon... to build a better, peaceful future," he said. Vassiliou named a new cabinet, retaining only Foreign Minister George Iacovou from the previous government, and promised to root out inefficiency during his five-year term.

Khartoum hints of links between rebels and relief agencies

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's army, embarrassed by publicity over its seizure of British-donated relief trucks, said Sunday that aid agencies were giving food to anti-government rebels operating in the famine-stricken south.

An armed forces spokesman told the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) that troops who overran a rebel camp in the Equatoria region Thursday found 600 bags of sorghum of the type distributed by some relief agencies in the area.

Asked by Reuters whether the statement suggested that the agencies were giving the rebels food, the spokesman said: "That is what it means. We know that it is happening."

He did not name the agencies nor say what action the government might take.

Khartoum newspapers have frequently suggested that foreign relief agencies in the south had secret links with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). But Sunday's statement was the first of its kind by the armed forces.

The daily Al Raya said the statement confirmed suspicions of direct links between some agencies and the SPLA, which has been fighting in the south since 1983 to overthrow the Khartoum government.

Al Raya, organ of the militant opposition National Islamic Front party, said security authorities were stepping up efforts to expose these links, but it gave no details.

Earlier this month, the Sudanese army commandeered 15 British-supplied trucks used by a consortium of eight relief agencies operating in the south.

Sudan initially reacted to London's strongly-worded protests by

denying the widely-published incident ever occurred but later said misinterpreted orders from Khartoum to local commanders were to blame.

Diplomatic and relief sources told Reuters 14 of the 15 trucks had been returned but some were in poor condition.

They believed the army seized the trucks to transport troops and supplies as part of a campaign to recapture the Equatoria town of Kapoeta, in rebel hands since Jan. 12.

Earlier this month the government upheld an expulsion order on four foreign relief agencies operating in the mainly animist and Christian south.

All four have Christian links and were accused of infringing national security. Unconfirmed press reports also said they were involved in illegal missionary activities.

Ethiopian pilot 'defects'

An Ethiopian Airlines pilot trainee landed a Cessna aircraft at Khartoum airport and asked for asylum in Sudan, an official source said Sunday.

The source said Gabre Getahon, 22, was handed over to Sudanese security authorities and the plane, which belonged to Ethiopian Airlines, was cordoned off under guard at the airport.

Other informants said Getahon decided to defect to Sudan Saturday, while on a training flight in the small aircraft.



Palestinians armed with slingshots fire marbles at Israeli soldiers in the occupied West Bank

Protests in Halhoul end in blood and bullets outside Hebron hospital

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (R) — It started with gunfire in a clash between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian demonstrators in a nearby village.

It ended with the army cornering stone-throwing protesters outside a hilltop hospital whose doctors frantically tried to revive a clinically-dead protester.

Such scenes Saturday in the occupied West Bank have become almost commonplace since the Palestinian uprising in the territories erupted Dec. 9.

At least 77 Palestinians have been killed in the uprising — two Sunday.

The army has begun to seal off trouble spots from journalists, declaring them closed military zones and leaving reporters to glean much of their information from hospitals.

Saturday's incident began in the town of Halhoul, six kilometres from Hebron, with soldiers advancing at about one p.m. on scores of Palestinians throwing rocks and defiantly waving a Palestinian flag.

The protesters retreated into the town, pursued by gunfire between buildings and across open areas studded with olive trees. An army helicopter circles overhead and hastily-erected

barricades were torn down. Casualties poured into Hebron's Alia Hospital.

Young men, expecting an army onslaught, gathered outside the two-storey building, scarves wrapped around their heads.

Ten medics crowded around 22-year-old haker Abdullah Al Bao, a casualty of the Halhoul fighting, some yelling for suction, others pounding his chest to restart his heart. Women cried in the hallway outside.

"He arrived dead. They're trying to resuscitate him," said a doctor above the din. "For me, I am hoping."

At 2.15 p.m. Bao was pronounced dead and the army arrived.

People screamed "jaysb" (army). Doctors tried to comfort the dead man's shrieking mother and relatives carried away the body.

Outside, the young Palestinians were pushing two large communal refuse bins down the hill at a jeep. A barrage of rocks followed and gunfire crackled anew.

As more wounded were making their way into the emergency room, three rocks flew over the beds. A crowd of angry Palestinians burst in and made straight

for a terrified man with blood pouring from his head.

Staff tried to stop the altercation, but the group led the bleeding man from the ward.

"He's a collaborator (with the army)," said one doctor.

For more than two hours gunfire outside alternated with the duller sound of tear-gas launchers as the Israeli soldiers pushed their way up the hill.

More protesters came in, hit in the skirmishes — a man with a bloody finger stump, another with a bullet in the arm among them.

The troops flushed Palestinians out from behind the hospital. Two casualties aged 15 and 20 were brought in with groin and chest wounds, the latter in an army jeep.

It was nearly 4.30 p.m. when six men were captured outside the hospital and taken away, shirts and sweaters wrapped over their heads.

Women ran out of the building to try and prevent them being led away, but soldiers pushed them back and slammed the front door.

Less than 10 minutes later, it was quiet and many of the soldiers were on their way back down the hill. The hospital itself was not hit by gunfire.

Israel detains American teachers overnight

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Israeli forces arrested two American schoolteachers on the occupied West Bank after finding them with "inciteful materials" but released both after a night in jail, the army said Sunday.

John Benvenuto, 42, of Boston, and Alison Glick, 25, of Cincinnati, were arrested Saturday in Ramallah where they teach at Qnaker-run schools for Palestinians.

"Inciteful materials were found in their possession. In the past few days, they were observed in suspicious circumstances in a number of places where violent disturbances took place," an army officer told reporters.

David Good, a diplomat at the U.S. consulate in Arab Jerusalem responsible for the West Bank, met the two at Ramallah police station at midday Sunday and later said that both were released without charge on their arrival.

"They spent the night in jail and were lectured by the police, that's all," Good said.

The incident was the latest clash with Israeli occupation troops involving members of the dozen or so American nationals who teach at the Friends Schools in Ramallah.

Nancy Awad, another American teacher at the school and wife of Palestinian-American political activist Munharak Awad, said Benvenuto and Glick were carrying lists of Palestinians recently killed by troops and paper and pens when arrested. The troops apparently believed these materials were to be used for making political posters, she said.

Earlier this month, one teacher from the Ramallah group suffered bruises when hit by rubber bullets fired by soldiers as she and colleagues tried to prevent the arrest of a Palestinian boy during a demonstration.

The teachers say their presence during demonstrations causes Israeli soldiers, who are under heavy criticism for brutality, to restrain themselves in action.

U.S. diplomats privately say they have warned the Ramallah group not to involve themselves in street clashes because they were likely to be hurt or face legal proceedings.

An American professor at nearby Birzeit University was fined by an Israeli military court last year on charges of direct involvement in a Ramallah demonstration.

U.S. may meet Soviet call for new talks on Gulf war

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States would consider meeting a Soviet request for another round of diplomacy to halt the Iran-Iraq war if Moscow gives final approval to a United Nations-sponsored arms embargo against Iran, a State Department official says.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said over the weekend that U.S. representatives to the U.N. Security Council signalled their willingness last week to discuss a delay in implementing an embargo 30 to 60 days after it is enacted.

The United States has been pushing the Soviets to agree to a U.N. embargo resolution, but Soviet delegates have been reluctant to implement one without another diplomatic attempt by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to get Iran to agree to a cease-fire in its seven-year war with Iraq.

For months, the United States has been beseeching Security Council members to declare Iraq the recalcitrant party in the Gulf war and impose the arms embargo they pledged last July to enact against whomever refused to heed a cease-fire call. Iraq has said it would go along with a truce.

Another question facing the world body is how the arms ban would be enforced.

Secretary of State George Shultz and other U.S. officials have limited their public discussion of enforcement problems,

asserting the world body should first focus its attention on establishing the embargo.

Shultz also has said that enforcement may not be too crucial an issue. Because the world's largest powers and their allies would be behind the ban, compliance would naturally follow.

The largest supplier of arms to Iran is China, a permanent member of the council, and U.S. officials have said they expected China to comply with an embargo.

At the same time, Shultz has not ruled out discussions at the United Nations on steps that might be required to monitor and enforce a ban.

On Saturday, the Minneapolis Star and Tribune newspaper quoted administration officials as saying the United States was willing to discuss with the Soviets the creation of a U.N. fleet to stop and search ships suspected of carrying arms to Iran.

The officials, who were not identified by the newspaper, said the U.N. fleet would not be similar to a Soviet proposal that U.S., French, British and other Western naval forces in the Gulf be put under the U.N. flag and command.

Rather, the arms-monitoring fleet under the U.S. proposal would be made up of ships from neutral countries and would intercept freighters at the mouth of the Gulf as they headed for the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas, the newspaper said.

'U.S. sent envoy to Iran seeking talks on relations'

LONDON (Agencies) — The Observer newspaper said Sunday that a secret U.S. envoy had visited Tehran to discuss the possibility of re-establishing diplomatic relations between Iran and the United States.

The envoy, apparently a close friend of President Ronald Reagan, went two weeks ago to the Iranian capital for the first mission of its kind since the arms-to-Iran scandal, the British Sunday newspaper said.

It said middle-ranking Iranian officials asked the envoy, travelling under the name of Clark, for assurances that any arms embargo against their country would be delayed until early this summer.

"The Iranians asked for a delay in pursuing U.N. action against their government because of parliamentary elections this April in which the 'moderates' such as Hojatolislam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of parliament, hope for a sweeping win over their opponents," said the newspaper's unclassified report.

The Observer said the talks were assumed to have covered the fate of American hostages and that of Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, seized by extremists in Lebanon two weeks ago.

The United States shipped arms to Iran in 1986 and National

Security Adviser Robert McFarlane visited Tehran to reopen contacts severed after the 1980 Iranian revolution. This led to congressional hearings in the Iran-contra scandal.

Iran buys arms in London

The Observer also said Sunday Iranian Revolutionary Guards and army officers posing as employees of Iran's state oil company continue to use London as an arms purchasing centre, five months after the British government banned such activities.

As many as 30 people working in the offices of the National Iranian Oil Co. are involved in worldwide purchases of military equipment, the newspaper said in a report attributed to sources inside the building.

Britain closed the Iranian military procurement office in London in September and ordered its military personnel to leave the country. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said it was a response to an Iranian gunboat attack on an unarmed British-registered tanker in the Gulf.

The Observer said that until the closure, the procurement office's 32 employees handled more than \$2 billion of Iran's annual \$2.5 billion worth of arms purchases.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 72111-19	
15:30	Programme One
15:35	Koran
15:40	Children's programme
16:20	Punk's Brother
16:45	Al-Manhal
17:10	Maths. History
17:35	Arabic series
17:40	Arabic series
18:15	Local programme
18:40	Programme review
19:00	News in Arabic
19:30	Arabic series
20:30	Local programme
22:10	Programme on prominent Arab Writers
23:00	News Summary
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	La Bae: On Tous Les Saints Eps.
19:00	News in French
19:15	Weekly Sport magazine (French)
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Are You Being Served?
21:10	Vanity Fair (New classic drama series)
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film "Daddy Care"
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & Durr: on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel: 72111-19	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
09:00	News Summary
10:00	Just a Minute
11:00	Relay Music
11:30	News Summary
12:00	Pop Session
12:45	News Summary
13:00	Pop Session Contd.
13:15	Pop Session Contd.
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Special Feature
15:00	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instrumentals
16:30	Old Favourites
17:00	Young Sound
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Sports Roundup
19:00	Music
19:30	News Desk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Contd.

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* A photo exhibition about architecture in Spain at the Spanish Cultural Centre (until March 3).

* An exhibition of prints by Rima Farah at the Gallery of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel (until Feb. 29).

* An exhibition to commemorate German composers Heinrich Schütz and Johann Bach at Yarmouk University (until March 3).

* An exhibition entitled "From Gutenberg to Electronics" at Goethe Institute (runs through March 8).

* Exhibition of Jordanian Industrial Products at the Greater Amman Municipality (runs through March 4).

JAPANESE FILMS

* Japanese film show (subtitled in Arabic) at 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILM

* "Born Yesterday" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 66102/7
American Centre .. 64371
American Centre library .. 641520
British Council .. 63647/8
French Cultural Centre .. 63709
Goethe Institute .. 64193
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 64303
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 62409
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 63977
Haya Arts Centre .. 625195
Hussein Youth City .. 6678116
Y.W.C.A. .. 641783
Y.W.M.A. .. 64251
Amman Municipal Library .. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 5330-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:15 Agaba (RJ)
09:30 Larnaca (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:30 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:40 Sana'a, Jeddah (RJ)
09:50 Dhahran (RJ)
09:55 Bahrain (RJ)
10:10 New York (RJ)
10:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
18:45 Baghdad (RJ)
19:00 New York (RJ)
23:35 Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:20 Sana'a (LH)
09:30 Baghdad (IA)
09:35 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Muscat, Bahrain (KU)
13:40 Kuwait (KU)
18:25 Beirut (ME)
20:15 Vienna (IA)
00:30 Baghdad (AF)

DEPARTURES

07:00 Agaba (RJ)
11:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Kuwait (KU)
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ)

12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
12:30 Jeddah (RJ)
19:35 Kuwait (RJ)
19:50 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
19:55 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Cairo (RJ)
20:45 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

06:30 Cairo, London (BA)
08:30 Beirut (MEA)
10:10 Frankfurt (LH)
18:10 Cairo (MS)

PRAYER TIMES

06:45 Fajr
11:48 Sunrise/Duha
15:43 Asr
17:33 Maghreb
18:52 Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The Kingdom is expected to face a cold front with scattered showers and strong gusts of wind during the day. In Agaba, the wind will be west-northerly with the seas becoming slightly rough.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Agaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Agaba 27 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Sunday rates

Local sell/buy rates in Jds.
Belgian franc 95.5 / 96.9
Dutch guilder 177.7 / 180.3
French franc 58.9 / 59.8
Italian lira 21.7 / 22.5
Japanese yen (for 100) 262.4 / 267.1
Swedish crown 36.4 / 37.2
Swiss franc 242.7 / 246.5
U.K. sterling pound 597.7 / 607.1
U.S. dollar 337.2 / 342.1
W. German mark 199.4 / 202.8

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 891238
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199
Civil Defence Qubaisa 271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qubaisa 707033
Civil Defence Qubaisa 57386
Ambulance 193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630341
Blood Bank 783053
Civil Defence 661111
Police headquarters 62090-3
Fire rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters 630141
Traffic police 893901
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints 771258
Queen Alia Int. Airport (08)533306/0

TAXIS

Kayali taxi 636730
Taxi taxi 642460
Tamer taxi 664467
Raghib taxi 852400
Sayal taxi 776131

HOSPITALS

Husseini Medical Centre 813813/3
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 62362
Malhas, J. Amman 62640
Palestine, Shmeisani 66417/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 624545
Al-Mustashfi Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 664127/7
Al-Abdi, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marka 89161/15
Dares (Dara) 602240/50
Anal Hospital 674155

GENERAL

Jordan Television 77311/19
Radio Jordan 77411/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 660412
Price complaints 661176
Telephone Information 12
Jordan and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 17
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg	
Apple (French)	420 / 360
Apple (green)	470 / 400
Banana	330 / 300
Banana (Mukammur)	300 / 240
Beans	640 / 560
Beans (broad)	430 / 380
Cabbage	150 / 100
Carrot (black)	250 / 200
Carrot (yellow)	280 / 220
Cauliflower (white)	320 / 260
Cauliflower (red)	320 / 260
Eggplant (large)	700 / 600
Eggplant (small)	180 / 120
Garlic	180 / 140
Grapefruit	160 / 120
Lemon	150 / 100
Mandarin	330 / 280
Marrow	140 / 100
Onion (green)	220 / 170
Onion (dry)	220 / 170
Oranges (Abu surra)	370 / 300
Oranges (Shamouni)	330 / 270
Pepper (hot)	480 / 400
Pepper (sweet)	360 / 300
Potato	160 / 120
Raddish	120 / 80
Spinach	160 / 120
Tomatoes	120 / 80
Turnip	180 / 150

BRIEFS

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree was issued approving the government's appointment of Issa Omar as director general of the Civil Registration and Passports Department. Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani announced the appointment of Abdul Rahim Ghobari as assistant director for the Civil Registration Department, and Adnan Nabulsi as assistant for the Passports Department.

FAKE DRUGS: The Ministry of Health has taken new measures to stop the smuggling of medicine into Jordan from neighbouring Arab countries. A report in Sawt Al Shaah Arabic daily said that most of the smuggled medicine which is being sold in the black market is expired. The ministry is now stepping up its search campaign in the Kingdom's pharmacies and drug stores to stop this practice.

BILATERAL: Public Security Director General Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Sunday received Yugoslav Ambassador to Jordan Zoran Popovic and discussed with him matters of bilateral concern.

KHASAWNEH: Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh received in his office Sunday Canada's Ambassador to Jordan Michael Bell to discuss matters of bilateral concern.

ILO MEETING: The cabinet Sunday approved the formation of the Jordanian delegation to the International Labour Organisation's 16th annual session, due to be held in Baghdad on March 7. Minister of Labour Rashid Ureigat heads the Jordanian team.

DELEGATION RETURNS: A joint tourist and information delegation Sunday returned home after concluding a week-long visit to Morocco, during which they discussed bilateral cooperation with Moroccan officials.

KUWAITIS: A delegation from Kuwait's police and traffic department Sunday visited the police licensing department at Marka and toured its various departments.

ROTTEN FOOD: The health department at Irbid Municipality has destroyed a quantity of food found to be unfit for human consumption. A municipality spokesman said that the food was collected during municipal inspection of food stores in the city of Irbid.

CONFERENCE: Jordan will take part in a regional conference on education to be held in the United Arab Emirates in April. The Ministry of Education's director of the curriculum department Ahmad Hyasat will represent the ministry at the four-day meeting.

FILMS: The Jerash branch of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation in cooperation with Jerash education department and the West German Friedrich Naumann Institute, are currently showing films on the cooperative movement and agricultural development in Jordan to Jerash farmers and villagers in the district.

GRADUATES: Participants in a six month programme on the development of administrative skills, organised by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development graduated Sunday.

MISSION: Jordan's round-the-world traveller Waid Amareh has arrived in Baghdad from Jordan. Amareh who is making around-the-world trip on foot in three stages expects to complete his mission in eight years.

BOOKS: Mu'ta University's civilian wing has opened a book exhibition organised in cooperation with Jordanian publishers. On display for several days are 10,000 books and publications including children's books for the benefit of university staff and students.

OPENING: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jabr Monday opens a new vegetable market, a bus terminal and a crafts centre in Mafraq. The minister will also inaugurate Rihah municipality's new premises.

SOUTHERN ROAD: The cabinet has allocated JD 1.5 million for the construction and expansion of the Ma'an-Ras Al Naqab road. The 75-kilometre road comprises four lanes.

TV: The director general of the Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production, Jawad Maraqa, has returned to Amman after a 10-day visit to Tunisia and Egypt after attending the meetings of an Arab information committee held in Tunis. The committee approved the setting up of a pan-Arab company for TV production.

SUPPORT: Austrian Ambassador to Jordan Arnold Moebius has received a letter of support from the Amman-based General Islamic Conference on Jerusalem for Austrian President Kurt Waldheim. The letter voiced total support for the Austrian president in the face of the Zionist campaign against him, and said that it had set up a committee which will visit Vienna later and express the commission's support for Waldheim who had won the support of his own people who elected him to the post.

COURSE: A five-day training course for teachers and headmasters of kindergartens, organised by the General Union of Voluntary Societies, started Sunday. 35 teachers and headmasters from Ma'an and Balqa governorates take part.

COMMOION: The Occupational Health and Safety Institute (OHSI) has completed a study on the impact of commotion on the health of workers in Jordanian industrial institutions and recommended that special regulation and specifications of allowable noise levels be prepared. The study also recommended that equipment and machinery imported into the country should meet certain specifications, designed to ensure comfort of workers. The study found out that 46 per cent of workers in industrial institutions have developed hearing problems, due to noises caused by machines.

WATER SEMINAR: The Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation has embarked on preparations for a regional seminar on water and water resources. The seminar due to open here on May 28 will discuss matters related to water, its quality and freeing water from pollution. Delegates from 12 countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region will take part in the week-long seminar in addition to the World Bank and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

INCIDENTS: A 35-year-old man identified only as M.M.G. from Mazraa near Karak has tried to commit suicide by swallowing large quantities of medical tablets. When that failed he tried to hang himself with a rope. He was rushed to hospital in Karak. In another incident Al Ra'i Arabic daily reported that a 24-year-old man identified as R.A. was injured by fire arms in a quarrel involving several people.

TRAFFIC FLOW: The Public Security Department (PSD) has made arrangements for easing the flow of traffic along the Amman-Jordan Valley highways during Fridays. Between 9 and 11 a.m. traffic on the two main roads to the valley through Naour and Salt will be considered as one for the purpose of regulating the flow of traffic into the valley. Between 4 and 6 in the afternoon the two roads will be reserved for Amman-bound traffic, while traffic on the opposite direction will be restricted. According to the arrangement motorists wishing to go in opposite directions within these two periods were free to use Al Arida road, linking Amman with the Jordan Valley.

ASSEMBLY: Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) will hold a general assembly meeting here next month to elect a new board to take charge of the coming two years. A JCA statement said that nominations for the association's post of president and board members remain open until Thursday March 3, 1988. The total number of JCA members is 659, and at least 51 per cent need to cast votes in the coming election to make it valid.

IN AQABA: The criminal court holds sessions in Aqaba this week aimed to settle cases referred to it by local police authorities. The court sessions will be presided over by Mr. Zubair Al Kayed convene in Aqaba only when the need arises.

CHEMISTRY: The Arab Chemists Federation is scheduled to hold its general conference in Amman in June 1988 under the slogan "Chemistry... in the service of Arab countries' development projects." A committee formed to prepare for the conference groups representatives of the Jordanian Chemists Association (JCA), the Ministries of Education and Higher Education, the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and the Armed Forces.

ISTANBUL MEETING: The Ministry of Planning will take part in the Islamic follow up committee for boosting economic and commercial cooperation, due to be held in Istanbul, Turkey on April 16. The ministry's delegation to the meetings will be headed by its Secretary General Ziad Fariz.

Prince Hassan urges Arab integration

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday emphasised the importance of inter-Arab integration within the Red Sea region, and pointed to the role the private sector should play in enhancing such integration.

Addressing Jordanian and Egyptian businessmen, Prince Hassan referred to Jordan's constant support for all initiatives designed to achieve further development and attract more investments in this vital part of the world.

The success of the Jordanian-Egyptian holding company and its operations largely depend on

the pioneering projects this company plans to execute and the leading role it can play in pooling the resources of various parties, Prince Hassan noted.

He stressed the need for the establishment of business societies in both countries to pool efforts in exploiting capital towards economic development. Prince Hassan underlined the need of adopting modern standard measures and specifications in production methods so as to attain the highest possible quality and enhance inter-Arab trade.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education Thaqan Hindawi and Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa.

Earlier, the Jordanian and Egyptian sides to the meetings reviewed a number of topics which had been discussed before and which aim at further bolstering Jordanian-Egyptian economic cooperation.

Both sides also reviewed matters related to the land-sea route, linking Aqaba with Nuebeh in the Sinai Peninsula; and discussed the role which the joint holding company can play in promoting tourist investments in both regions. They also reviewed areas of scientific cooperation between the two countries.



Crown Prince Hassan

Shbeilat wins engineering association's presidency

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Leith Shbeilat, a prominent member of the Lower House of Parliament, became president of the Jordan Engineers Association after a landslide victory Sunday dawn over his rivals. Shbeilat secured the votes of 3,068 engineers out of the 4,491 association members who turned out for the election. Mohammad Keilani trailed with 1,020 votes, while Tajuddin Nusseiba failed to collect more than 151 votes.

That was the third time Shbeilat ran for the association's presidency. Winning in 1982, the outspoken political activist lost in 1984, the same year he was elected to represent Amman in the Lower House of Parliament.

Shbeilat replaces the association president Ibrahim Abu Ayash, who did not nominate himself for another term.

The elections process started Friday morning and lasted until dawn, Sunday.

Ismael Bariush collected 1,115 to win the vice president seat and six other candidates won seats in the association's council each representing a branch of engineering.

Khaled Ramadan and Bashir Jaghbeer collected 2,550 and 2,253 votes respectively to represent civil engineers. Omar Al Russian collected 1,682 votes to



Leith Shbeilat

represent architects. Ghassan Abdul Majed collected 1,845 votes to represent mechanical engineers. Ahmad Atwan became a member in the council representing electric engineers securing 1,845 votes. Mohammad Abu Taha won 1,596 to represent the mining engineers and Riyadh Abu Hazim collected 1,596 to represent chemical engineers.

In an address following the elections, Shbeilat stressed the need for collective efforts to face the hurdles impeding the engineering sector's development and the association, which, he said, was facing a magnitude of problems ever increasing with the increase in its membership.

Dubai meeting explores expatriates' housing

DUBAI (Petra) — A meeting opened here Saturday to discuss the prospect of providing homes and housing units to Jordanian expatriates in the United Arab Emirates. The meeting is organised by the Housing Bank in cooperation with Oman Bank in Dubai and several Jordanian

housing and tourist organisations and companies.

At the four-day meeting expatriates will be examining prospects and offers for owning homes in the Kingdom. Altogether, 35 Jordanian housing firms are taking part in the four-day activities.

Packaged fruits, vegetables coming

KARAK (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) held a seminar at Ghor Safi Sunday to orient local farmers on ways and methods for grading and packing fruits and vegetables for local and foreign markets.

AMO officials and specialists who spoke at the seminar said that the organisation has, as of the middle of February, adopted new measures and rules in the process of grading and packing

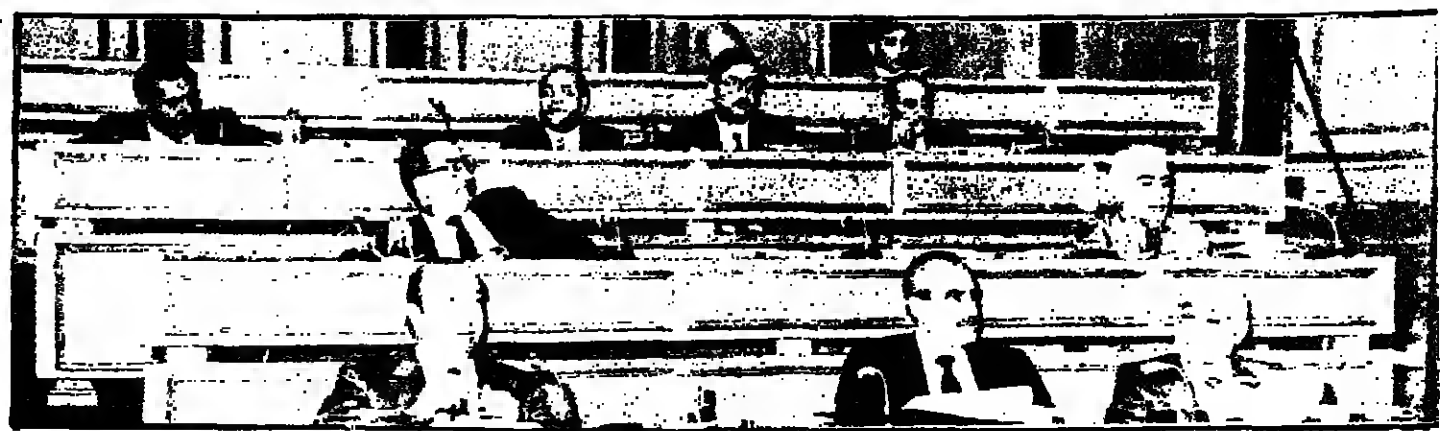
crops, designed to offer the consumer the best possible quality product.

Bad quality products reflect negatively not only on the producers, but also on the national economy, the officials said. They also stressed the importance of selecting top quality products for marketing abroad as a favourable element in the current competition with products from other countries.

OBITUARY

The families of Qattan, Anistas, Innab and Abed Rabbo and their relatives in Jordan and abroad announce with deep grief the passing away of:

Shukri Anton Jubrail Qattan father of Anton, Sami and Lina who died in Amman Sunday at the age of 81. The funeral will take place at 3:00 p.m. Monday at the cemetery church in Amman. Condolences will be accepted at the late Shukri Qattan's home in Jabal Amman - Second Circle. Note: Money allocated for wreaths should instead go to the benefit of St. Vincent charitable society; a society representative will be present at the churchyard.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and members of his Cabinet attending Sunday's session of the Senate (Petra photo)

Senate passes press law amendment

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Sunday approved an amendment to the press and publications law after a heated debate among senators who argued that the amendment contradicted the freedom of the press guaranteed by the constitution.

The amendment, passed recently by the Lower House of Parliament, grants a right of appeal to publishers in the case of withdrawal or revocation of their publications' licences. The original amendment as presented by the government gave the cabinet absolute power in this regard.

Although this amendment was viewed by some publishers and Lower House deputies, as an achievement, some senators felt that there were loopholes.

Article 16, now approved by both chambers of parliament, grants the cabinet the authority to license a publication, to renew its licence or deny it with no right to appeal "except in the cases of withdrawal or revocation of a licence" where a publisher can appeal to the government or the courts.

Article 23 of the law, states that if a press publication publishes anything that would

threaten the "national entity, state security, harms national well being or constitutional principles," the council of ministers, upon recommendations from the minister of information, could cancel the licence of the publication or close down the establishment for a period of no less than a week or to fine it no less than JD 150 but not exceeding JD 500.

According to this article the decision is absolute and not subject to appeal. In the case of cancelling a licence, the publisher cannot apply for another licence before the passage of a full year on the decision.

Senate member Juma Hammad, himself a publisher and life-long journalist, contended that article 23 would cause a "disaster not only for the freedom of the press, and the right for legal arbitration," but also for the financial and social well being of publishers and journalists.

Tarawneh added that the immunity granted the cabinet by article 23 stemmed from reasons of great importance affecting the security of the country.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, told the Senate that article 16 does not talk about punishment for publishers and only detailed the prerogatives of the cabinet, which were absolute.

Rifai added that the new law "took away from the cabinet's prerogatives, and in effect gives more to the press publishers."

Senate member Khalil Salem said he preferred that "no administrative decision be granted immunity as a general principle" but added that these two articles complemented each other.

"Article 16 did not give reason for the cancellation of a licence while article 23 did."

Salem also posed a question "Why does article 23 state the minimum period for closing a newspaper, one week, but does not give the maximum time limit?"

Senator Mudar Badran, replied to Salem's question explaining that technically it would be a maximum of one month because according to the law, if a publication remains closed for over a month, the licence is technically withdrawn.

Senator Hassan Al Kayed was against taking away the cabinet decision's immunity in this regard. He said: "the cabinet is more aware than any other body, and is more able to decide what is to be done." He further explained that "the judiciary would not know the reasons behind a cabinet decision (for revoking licences) and would not be as efficient as the cabinet in assessing the situation."

The Senate also discussed and approved another amendment to the press and publication law.

Music lovers are in for a delightful performance

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A piano and violin recital, organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation for the benefit of the National Music Conservatory (NMC) will take place at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) today at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are at 3 JD each and available at the RCC. American musicians Joseph Holt on piano and Kelly Barr on violin will charm the audience with selected works for piano and violin.

For all those who have been in Amman's music circuit for some time, Joseph Holt is not a newcomer, nor is he a beginner! A young yet mature performer, Holt has already given more than one recital in Jordan. Impressive keyboard control, expression, taste and musicality are obvious qualities when one listens to Joseph Holt. He is also a great communicator who knows how to establish a fast and excellent contact with his audience. Holt is the winner of several international piano awards and contests.

Kelly Barr is 19, and has been playing the violin since the early age of 5. She lives by and for the violin, practising 4 to 8 hours a day. Earlier this week both musicians gave a private recital where they played in Spanish Dance by Manuel de Falla, the sonata in A by J. Haydn, the Allegro de Concerto by Granados and the Bee by Francois Schubert. The violin is known to be a very difficult instrument to master. This is usually achieved, that is when and if it is achieved, after long years of learning and practice.

However, Kelly Barr seems to have acquired the control of the instrument at an exceptionally young age. Through difficult pieces she demonstrated genuine musicality and played beautifully.

Barr also played at the NMC, where she delighted the young violin students. According to Sheila Johnson, head of the Conservatory, the children were more than enthusiastic about the performance which made them eager to work and play better. Kelly Barr has always had the support of her family as a young violin student. In fact she often practises with her sister who also plays the same instrument. She admits however, that it was very hard sometimes to keep on the good work, more particularly when she was a teen-ager. She explained (with the full approval of Joseph

Holt), that this was the age when you discover life and all the possibilities it offers to you: It is the time to make choices and decide what one wants to do with one's life.

By coming to Jordan to perform, meet and extend support for the students of the NMC, both Kelly Barr and Joseph Holt are making a great contribution to the Conservatory. Sheila Johnson says that the number of registered students was increasing (has multiplied five times in less than one year) and that piano courses are being planned in the short future due to increased demand. She expects to be set up a young string ensemble very soon, and hopefully a symphony orchestra would not be a dream anymore.

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Logic in cohesion

JORDAN, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have acted in an exemplary manner in presenting a unified face to the peace-making overtures of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz this week. Some of this is due to Jordan's traditional desire to work within the framework of a unified and coordinated Arab position. Some is also due to the fact that after 20 years of diplomatic efforts in the region, the Arabs as a whole have learned that there is strength in unity, and logic in cohesion. If the United States does not yet feel that it is prepared to accept the Arab proposal for an international peace conference on Middle East peace, then we shall have to pursue our united Arab position until the day the American, and Israeli, positions contain more realism and less idealism.

Mr. Shultz and the United States government certainly have much self-interest in trying to play the mediator's role, and they have seen once again that the Arabs are willing and eager to explore any possibilities for a breakthrough in negotiating a peace that satisfies the dual rights of the Israelis and the Palestinians. But dual rights should mean equal rights. It is naive for the United States to expect applause when it proposes the security and sovereignty of the state of Israel while it offers the Palestinians the promise of "legitimate rights." What are "legitimate rights"? How do they coincide with the right of self-determination? How do they mesh with the principles of liberty and national self-assertion so vividly embodied in such American documents as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

If the United States wishes to play a truly productive role as a mediator, it must be truly impartial, arguing for the same quality of human, political and national rights for both Israelis and Palestinians. The message from the Palestinians and the PLO, their sole legitimate leadership, is very clear: The issue of the Palestinians is one of national rights, not one of treating a demographic and geographic dilemma within territory defined by cease-fire lines in 1967. If the American response is that the Israelis are not yet prepared to deal with the Palestinian issue as one of national rights, then the Arabs should make it clear that we are prepared to wait until the conditions for peace-making in Israel and Washington are more propitious. Timetables of national assertion and identity in the Middle East are not set by American officials, though these officials can play a constructive role in the process of helping the peoples of the area achieve and safeguard their rights.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shultz hears Jordan's views

PRINCE Hassan heard U.S. views from Secretary of State George Shultz and presented Jordan's stand to the American secretary, underlining the need for holding an international Middle East peace conference in which all concerned parties can participate. Prince Hassan said this is the only feasible way for achieving a lasting peace in the region and noted that any peaceful solution should hinge on two points: Israel's total withdrawal from lands occupied since 1967 and guarantees for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. His Majesty King Hussein had repeated earlier the Jordanian firm stand with regard to this problem during his tours abroad. His endeavours in world countries secured support from the international community to Jordan's views about a settlement which has become urgent now in view of the current uprising in the occupied Arab territory. There is no doubt that Shultz heard similar views in Damascus which holds a stand identical to that of Amman and hopes to achieve the same results. Wherever Shultz goes in the Arab World now, he will find the same position and hear the same views about a settlement. There is no single Arab country that can accept a unilateral treaty with Israel nor there is one in the Arab World who does not approve of lasting peace that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people. We are not asking Washington to do miracles, but all we ask is that the U.S. should not make of its policies a real obstacle in the path of genuine peace.

Al Dustour: Jordan reaffirms stand

JORDAN which welcomed any American moves to revive the peace process in the Middle East was keen also to renew its call for a lasting settlement, entailing a total Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory and safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland. Jordan which reiterated this position to visiting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz realises that the United States is fully aware of the Arab stand, and that the Arab Nation insists on an international conference to achieve a lasting peace. But Jordan chose to repeat this stand to Shultz and to call his attention that the Arab stand is backed by the international community, which the United States cannot ignore. Jordan is keen to make Washington realise that there can be no chance for peddling alternative ideas which do not achieve the aspired Arab goals. Jordan's reaffirmation of its views at this time assumes added significance in view of the on-going uprising in the occupied Arab territory, and as the United States is embarking on a new initiative in our region. Reaffirmation of Arab stands with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict is necessary now at a time when the United States has mixed and confused ideas, and is probably trying to present old ones in a new form. Jordan has made it clear to Shultz that it can not accept anything short of a comprehensive and durable peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Justice is the aim

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's talks with Jordanian officials in Amman Saturday presented another chance for the Arab side to reiterate its firm position with regard to a Middle East settlement. It is certain that the U.S. secretary of state was not surprised by the Jordanian views since Jordan's firm stand has never changed, and has been insisting on total Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories occupied since 1967, and a lasting peace that can guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people. Jordan has never stopped its endeavours world-wide and in the United States to ensure the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland. World public opinion remembers too well King Hussein's warning of danger inherent in the continued Israeli occupation of Arab land. The King had sounded the alarm on numerous occasions, and called on the international community to end Israel's occupation which has been causing tension and bringing the Middle East to the verge of war leading to more bloodshed. The uprising in the occupied Arab territory came to support the King's views and to reiterate an old-new fact that justice should be done in any settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mixing oil with water

By Waleed Sadi

WHEN the Arab summit was convening in Amman last November, a pessimist sarcastically remarked to me in anticipation of the results of the summit that one simply cannot mix oil with water. He went on to elaborate his negative thesis that the Amman summit may succeed in shaking the "jug" so hard that its oil and water contents would temporarily mix but as soon as the jug is put to rest, the oil will go one direction and the water will go in another. When I pressed him to further explain his real logic, he answered that he had the Iraqi-Syrian relations in mind. At that time, like all good intentioned people I rejected totally this gloomy, doomsday forecast about inter-Arab relations and insisted that he was wrong and that I together with the other millions of Arabs everywhere were right in expecting real harmony and cooperation among the Arab governments including Iraq and Syria. I should say especially between Iraq and Syria in view of the fact that those two countries form the backbone of any inter-Arab solidarity. In my desperate way to convince my adversary that the title of the Amman summit will be borne out by the events and time, I told him to wait and see how true, deep and profound were the political restructuring in inter-Arab relations which ensued from the Amman summit. Of course I was sure I would win any bet that this pessimist was willing to wager and I proudly awaited another opportunity to look him right in the eye to tell him: I told you.

Sure enough I confronted that man again only a few days ago and when he hastened to bombast me with some news that all was still not that well between Iraq and Syria and wanted to know if I had anything to say to defend my premature optimism.

He was obviously referring to the recent setback in efforts to fully reconcile the two countries in accordance to the mandate and dictates of the Amman summit. I hastened to observe that I, like the millions of Arabs everywhere, was aghast at the small pace improvement in the Iraqi-Syrian relations but had not given up so prematurely on the futuristic relations between Arab brothers including Damascus and Baghdad. I also told him that I thought and believed that the spirit of the Amman summit still permeated inter-Arab relations like a common thread that binds together

various pieces there were still impediments on the road to full and total harmony and coordination within the Arab World. My friend was nevertheless not convinced of my positive and optimistic protestations and by way of rebutting my rosy thesis he referred to the many unsettled Arab problems: The Sahara conflict, the Libyan-Arab relations, the incomplete restitution of Egypt's place among the Arab community of states, the still illusive Arab harmony on the Gulf conflict and last but not least the division of opinion on how to proceed on the Palestinian case and the overall Arab-Israeli conflict. These were, my friend commented, outward the clear signals that all was not well within the Arab World and that the goals and aspirations of the Amman summit for total harmony and cooperation among the Arab leaders had not yet materialised.

It was time for me to offer a lecture on the relative meanings of harmony and coordination which were the motto of the Amman summit and in the shadow of which we in the Arab World laboured and pursued our policies. Did relative harmony, per se, mean total eye to eye perspective? Or was it the spirit and commitment to upgrade the supreme Arab Nation's interest over all the considerations was what makes harmony and cooperation a living and dynamic phenomenon that propels the direction of the Arab World. I for one never thought it was possible for all the Arab countries to see eye to eye on all issues as long as they ensnared their respective sovereignties the way they did. I have always thought that we should avoid to entertain too high an expectation and believe that two or more states still enjoying and enshrining full sovereignty would be able to share common views on all subjects at all times. It is not in the nature of things for independent and sovereign states to shed away their separate identity in toto no matter how good intentioned they may be. Rather we need to get accustomed to live with the pragmatic level and degree of harmony and coordination between independent and sovereign Arab states, and try to construct on what we have attained day by day. And if we keep these hard facts in focus I think we in the Arab World could begin to feel satisfaction with the degree of harmony and

coordination that was realised at the Amman summit. A higher level of harmony and coordination can never be achieved by summits. Rather the only avenue for such sublime goals and objectives can only be had through the demotion of the concept and principle of sovereignty by the respective Arab states. I for one would never allow myself to entertain the illusion of attaining pure and perfect inter-Arab harmony and coordination as long as the Arab states guard their strong attachment and respect for traditional sovereignty and independence. At least we should be prepared to move as far as the European Community did when they based their coordination and harmony on issues that range from economic to political concerns. Full coordination will continue to be devoid of its full meaning as long as it does not encompass social, educational, economical, financial and last but not least political endeavours. Obviously we have a long way before we reach the sophisticated level of coordination and cooperation that was struck by our European neighbours.

Everything is relative, I cautioned my pessimistic interlocutor. The Arab club is still in its infancy as far as sound and sophisticated relations are concerned. Amman Arab summit was truly a mile-stone on the road to the fulfillment of all Arab aspirations. Do not make the mistake of expecting too much from it.

But as my friend, like many other Arabs, had taken the solidarity slogan of the Amman summit literally, he seemed little convinced of my observations. In an effort to fortify his deep convictions that more to inter-Arab coordination should be there than what existed, he retorted quizzically: What about Arab nationalism? Isn't it supposed to be the guiding light and motivating force that could put flesh on the skeleton of rudimentary inter-Arab relations? Yes of course, I answered, if only we in the Arab World could find an institutional expression to that nationalism. It is really the common thread that can bind the Arab governments together. My friend finally nodded his head in agreement with my last observation and with it we parted company. But neither one of us was truly converted to the others point of view.

Kahane's message heard but only method rejected in Israel

By Yossi Melman and Dan Raviv

TWO weeks after the end of the June 1967 war, the Israeli cabinet, convened for a secret meeting to consider a thorny issue: What to do about the demographic problems created by the capture of the West Bank and Gaza, which had added nearly a million Arabs to Israeli jurisdiction.

One of the options discussed at the 1967 cabinet meeting was resettlement of Arabs living in refugee camps, according to the private diaries kept by Yaacov Herzog, who was at the time director-general of the prime minister's office. (The official transcript of the meeting remains secret, even now).

Menachem Begin, who was then a cabinet minister, recommended the demolition of the refugee camps and the transfer of their residents to Sinai, captured from Egypt, according to Herzog's notes. Finance Minister Pinchas Sapir, supported by Foreign Minister Abba Eban, called for resettling the refugees in neighbouring Arab countries, mainly Syria and Iraq.

The 1967 cabinet meeting didn't reach a decision on the resettlement issue. But sentiment seemed to favour Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon's proposal that Palestinian refugees be transported to the Sinai desert and that Palestinians should be persuaded to move abroad. According to Herzog's notes, Allon said: "We do not do enough among the Arabs to encourage emigration."

Instead of forced relocation to the desert, Israel adopted a gentler resettlement plan in 1967. The prime minister's office, the defence ministry and the army jointly established a secret unit charged with "encouraging" the departure of the Palestinians for foreign shores. This secret plan surfaced publicly for the first time last November, when Ariel Sharon told a Tel Aviv audience: "For several years after the Six-Day War, assistance was given to Arabs who wished to emigrate from here. There was an organisation which dealt with it."

The "organisation" Sharon mentioned functioned smoothly and quietly for three years, and then disaster struck. Around midday on May 4, 1970, a young Palestinian entered the Israeli consulate in Asunción, Paraguay. He seemed nervous and angrily demanded to see the ambassador, according to one witness. When the ambassador's secretary tried to calm the Palestinian, he pulled out a pistol and shot her dead.

Israel's official spokesman quickly declared that the attack was part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's terrorism led by Yasser Arafat. But it was in fact something quite different: An act of vengeance by a Palestinian and two accomplices who had been "resettled" in Paraguay as part of the secret Israeli relocation plan and were unhappy at what they believed was a raw deal from the Israelis.

The killer was identified by Paraguayan police investigators as a Palestinian named Talal Ibn Dimassi. (He and his two accomplices apparently fled the country and were never caught). These Palestinians had lived in the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza. Fed up with life there, they had

accepted an unusual offer to move to South America. The journey into voluntary exile began with a visit to Israeli military governor's office in Gaza, not far from Dimassi's appliance store on El Mukhtar Street in Gaza City, and ended with a one-way ticket from an Israeli travel agency. The Israelis had worked intensively to find Arabs like Dimassi who were so disappointed with their lot that they might be candidates for the secret programme. Hundreds of refugee families accepted the offer. The clandestine unit purchased, through intermediaries, farms and other land in Paraguay, Brazil and even pre-Qadhaifi Libya.

Dimassi arrived in Paraguay a month before the shooting. Before he left Gaza, the Israelis had promised him and the other emigres that they would receive new passports and help in finding jobs. When the days passed, the pledges were not fulfilled and the Palestinians' pleas to the Israeli embassy went unanswered, some of them decided on an act of protest and vengeance. Dimassi and his colleagues intended to kill the Israeli ambassador, but they panicked and killed the secretary instead.

Secret plan ends

The attack in Paraguay put an abrupt end to the secret Israeli plan, which the government had hoped would help solve the problem of the Palestinians by exporting them. Sending one million Arabs overseas would be prohibitively expensive, but around 1,000 did leave voluntarily in the early years of the occupation. The idea of relocating Palestinians isn't new, as the 1967 cabinet discussions show. And a similar scheme might be attractive today to a growing number of Israelis who wonder — as they watch the recent uprising in the West Bank and Gaza — how long the territories can be governed militarily.

Since the early days of Zionism, resettlement has been an option for dealing with the demographic problem posed by the large Arab population in the historical land of Palestine. The founding fathers of the Zionist movement — Herzl, Weizmann, Ben Gurion and others — believed that they were establishing Israel in a land devoid of population. Only at a later stage, in the late 1930s, did they become aware of the demographic challenge: That the Arab majority in Palestine would not simply vanish. Various solutions were considered, including population transfer. The aim was to encourage Palestinians to leave their land, principally to new homes in Trans-Jordan. The Jewish leadership even negotiated for the purchase of land on the east bank of the Jordan River for resettlement of Arabs.

The Labour Zionists, influenced by the huge population transfers in Europe after World War I, believed that financial incentives would suffice. The conservative Zionist leader, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, also supported the idea. In November 1939, he wrote in a letter to one of his party members: "We should instruct American Jewry to mobilise

half a billion dollars in order that Iraq and Saudi Arabia will absorb the Palestinian Arabs."

"There is no choice: The Arabs must make room for the Jews in Eretz Israel. If it was possible to transfer the Baltic peoples, it is also possible to move the Palestinian Arabs."

Nothing practical emerged

"Dimassi arrived in Paraguay a month before the shooting. Before he left Gaza, the Israelis had promised him and the other emigres that they would receive new passports and help in finding jobs. When the days passed, the pledges were not fulfilled and the Palestinians' pleas to the Israeli embassy went unanswered, some of them decided on an act of protest and vengeance. Dimassi and his colleagues intended to kill the Israeli ambassador, but they panicked and killed the secretary instead."

from these grand ideas, but the notion of transferring the Arab population survived. Over the years, it has taken various forms. But the record shows that relocation has always been an Israeli option — discussed quietly but seriously — and not simply a pet proposal of right-wing extremists.

The first opportunity to deal directly with the demographic problem came in 1948. The 1948 war resulted in population shifts, some in line with the United Nations partition plan that Arab leaders had rejected.

Palestinian historians contend the Israeli army did have a programme to remove the Arabs and replace them with Jews from Arab countries. The traditional Israeli version accuses the Palestinian leadership of calling on its own people to leave their homes, promising "a return after victory."

A new book by an Israeli journalist, Benny Morris, lends some weight to the Palestinian version. His book, "The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-49," is based on Israeli army documents that were made available to the author after long legal battles with the military censor and the national archives. Morris points to several incidents in which Israeli troops expelled Palestinian villagers.

In the years since 1948, Israeli leaders have generally avoided any comprehensive public discussion of expelling or relocating Palestinians. This issue apparently surfaced in a minor way in 1964, when a young Israeli colonel named Ariel Sharon reportedly asked his staff to research the numbers of buses, vans and trucks that would be required in case of war to transport some of the 300,000 Arabs out of northern Israel. According to Sharon's biographer, Uzi Beazman, most of Sharon's subordinates declined to cooperate with his request unless they received written orders and confirmation from the General Staff in Tel Aviv. Even though it was only a contingency plan, they feared that if one day the documents were published, Israel would be embarrassed.

During the 1967 war, there wasn't any official policy to expel Palestinians as the Israeli army

swept into the West Bank. But several Israeli military commanders took limited steps. One general, for instance, sent bulldozers to demolish three Arab villages near Latrun, on the road to Jerusalem, expelling their residents. Only the intervention of Israeli intellectuals saved the West Bank town of Qalqilya from

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Meir Kahane adopted the call for expulsion, turning it into the heart of its political platform. A former American who founded the Jewish Defence League, Kahane calls openly for the removal of Arabs from Israel and the territories. He has offered to pay Palestinians to leave Israel.

Kahane has enjoyed growing support among Israel's young generation. He won a seat in the Knesset in 1984, and recent polls suggest that his Kach party could win three or four of the 120 seats in the next election this November. That would enhance Kahane's claim that in calling for the expulsion of Palestinians, he is giving voice to the secret desire of many Israelis.

Other prominent Israelis are joining Kahane in talking about the once-taboo topic of expelling Arabs. Yosef Shapira, a National Religious Party minister, raised the issue of population transfer just before the last outbreak of civil protests in the occupied territories. He said that Israel should encourage Palestinian emigration on a large scale, especially among the intelligentsia. Shapira even suggested, as Kahane did 15 years ago, that Israel's government pay \$20,000 to every Arab who agrees to leave.

Ariel Sharon repeated Shapira's proposal but said Israel should

not talk about it and instead put it into action. The deputy defence minister, Michael Dekel of the Likud, also echoed the call to transfer the Arabs. And Gideon Patt, a Liberal Party member of the Likud bloc and a government minister, threatened the Arabs of Israel that if they did not "behave themselves" they would be put on trucks and in taxicabs and sent to the border.

Most of the Israeli leadership still firmly rejects "any talk" of mass relocation of Palestinians. Israel reserves deportation as the most extreme punishment for Palestinians; it has expelled some 900 Palestinians — but only after following legal procedures that include a right to appeal to the Supreme Court (no such appeal was accepted).

Kahane's message — expel the Palestinians or risk losing Jewish control of the land — remains a potent one. And in the absence of a political solution to the Palestinian problem, Israel may push towards such measures.

Yossi Melman is the diplomatic correspondent of the Israeli daily newspaper Davar. Dan Raviv is a London-based CBS News correspondent. They are authors of the Hebrew-language book, "A Hostile Partnership: Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians." The article is reprinted from The Washington Post.

Israeli rightists have the solution — Expulsion

By Alan Elsner

Reuter

TEL AVIV — A new word has entered the Hebrew political lexicon — "transfer." It is used by Israeli right-wingers who favour the mass expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories.

"Half a year ago, 90 per cent of the people would have objected to transfer," said Yisrael Harel, a leader of the Gush emunim (faith bloc) West Bank settlement movement and editor of its monthly magazine Nekuda.

"Today, 30 to 40 per cent would argue that it's not a dirty word or an inhuman policy. On the contrary, they would argue, it's a way to avoid friction," he added.

Retired Israeli General Rehavam Ze'evi called a public meeting in Tel Aviv this week to launch a political campaign for "transfer by free will."

About 150 people, including academics and other retired senior army officers took part in the discussion. It ended with Ze'evi saying: "We have lit the torch and it will burn."

The idea of driving out some or all of the 1.5 million Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not new in Israel.

Politicians on the far-right have spoken about it for years. Anti-Arab extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane won 21,000 votes in the 1984 general election and a seat in parliament campaigning on an expulsion platform.

An 11-week Palestinian uprising in the territories has propelled the idea back into the public eye. It has become an accepted subject for discussion in the opinion pages of Israeli newspapers, though leaders of the major parties dismiss it as impractical.

Voices grow louder But the idea has spread to the right-wing of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's nationalist Likud Bloc. Deputy Defence Minister Michael Dekel publicly endorsed it last summer.

Advocates of "transfer" are vague about how it would be carried out and what would happen to those expelled.

Kahane and Ze'evi both speak about "creating conditions" in Israel and the occupied territories, under which

القدس



Palestinian demonstrators in front of Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem (file photo)

Only the colour is different

David Beresford of the Guardian travelled from the townships of Johannesburg to the camps of the Gaza Strip in search of Israel's South African connection

IT WAS ONLY a fragment of a half-beard conversation, but one which came increasingly to mind this week travelling the "Promised Land" in search of "the South African connection."

An elderly man, with traces of a Transvaal accent, was collecting his daughter from Ben Gurion airport and they were swapping news of friends and family when the daughter enquired, solicitously, whether he missed South Africa. Her father confessed, wistfully, that he did. Then he added — with the horrified stage whisper of one speaking of an obscenity, overlaid by an air of self-justification: "but I've heard that anti-Semitism is on the increase there."

The conversation was memorable not for the judgment itself, but for the fact that a South African in Israel should have to rely on the charge of anti-Semitism — a comparatively minor phenomenon in the iniquitous land of apartheid to rationalise his self-exile.

Israel is particularly sensitive to the South African analogy in the present times of political "unrest" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. A recent programme broadcast by a U.S. television network, drawing parallels, earned an anguished response from the Israeli government, including the distribution of a circular to its foreign missions providing a point-by-point rebuttal of such arguments.

Comparisons between the two countries also have a resonance in South Africa itself. The long-standing identification of apartheid with the racial supremacy theories of the Third Reich has made the experience of the holocaust of particular relevance to the South African issue. Which has made it fitting that South Africa's small Jewish population, as representatives of the victims of the holocaust, should have played a disproportionate role in the battle against apartheid. For instance, of the 12 whites involved in the Rivonia conspiracy — which saw the incarceration of Nelson Mandela, among others — seven were Jews.

At the same time, the fact that for the past two decades Israel has been Pretoria's closest military ally, supplying hardware and technology to build weapons — ranging from the Uzi sub-machine gun to gunboats, missile systems, advanced fighter aircraft and, it is generally believed, the nuclear bomb — has created some angst among many South African Jews, as well as a confusion of attitudes within the anti-apartheid movement to both Jewry and Zionism. But it is a confusion which has been ameliorated, to some extent, by Israeli denunciations of apartheid and racial discrimination, coupled with protestations — bolstered by memories of Nazi genocide — that there is a fight for survival itself which excuses any alliance.

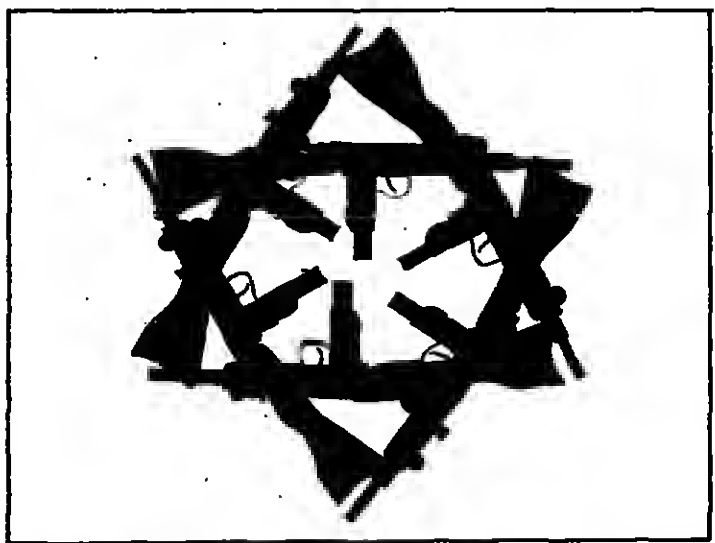
Same feelings
It comes, therefore, as a particular shock to have travelled several thousand miles to Israeli-occupied territory and feel oneself — standing in Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip — somehow transported back to Johannesburg's Alexandra township. There are sufficient differences, of course, to betray the suspicion of space warp, but the similarities are inescapable. The skins are lighter, but the Palestinians are packed in their thousands — just like the blacks of "Alex" — into squalid hovels breathing the stink of open drains. The troops make their way through the remnants of street barricades with what is a

familiarly ominous air — albeit in canvas-covered jeeps. The Israeli troops are more confident of invulnerability to rocks and petrol bombs than their South African counterparts in armoured personnel carriers.

And while their victims do not boast the vicious wounds of the sjambok, they display equally appalling injuries: A 19-year-old boy with a plaster cast on his arm, fractured in two places during a clubbing, and a middle-aged man who strips to show his torso, arms and legs covered with bruising where he has been viciously beaten with batons for protesting at an order to clean up a barricade outside his home.

The feeling of *deja vu* follows

"And behind the superficialities of appearance lies an administration which might even appall the more moderate supporters of the South African government. The Gaza Strip and West Bank, for instance, are sometimes compared with the South African homelands. But whatever the iniquities of the Bantustan system and the poverty to be found in those territories, they do not suffer an administration under which Arab water consumption is pegged at levels set more than 20 years ago (a limitation to which Israeli settlers are not subject), in which Arab building is restricted — indeed banned for the last year — and the planting of a tomato, or a tree, by an Arab subject to permit."



one throughout the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, from a stone clanging off the side of our car — hurled by a child reacting not to skin colour, as he would in the townships, but to a yellow number-plate denoting Israeli ownership — to soldiers slouching at road blocks sealing off the camps and steel-shuttered Palestinian shops, closed in the self-sacrificing protest of frustration so reminiscent of South Africa's consumer boycotts.

And behind the superficialities of appearance lies an administration which might even appall the more moderate supporters of the South African government. The Gaza Strip and West Bank, for instance, are sometimes compared with the South African homelands. But whatever the iniquities of the Bantustan system and the poverty to be found in those territories, they do not suffer an administration under which Arab water consumption is pegged at levels set more than 20 years ago (a limitation to which Israeli settlers are not subject), in which Arab building is restricted — indeed banned for the last year — and the planting of a tomato, or a tree by an Arab subject to permit.

'Pass laws'

The Gaza Strip and West Bank, like the homelands, are

used as labour reservoirs, the Arab workers commuting to work under a permit system reminiscent of South Africa's now abandoned pass laws — being forbidden to stay overnight in Israel itself. But in addition the Palestinian territories are blatantly exploited as captive consumers: They represent Israel's third biggest export market after the U.S. and the EEC — a position which clearly owes something to the discouragement of economic self-sufficiency by the military restrictions on development.

And martial rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank more than matches South African security laws and emergency legislation. Both have detention without trial, but where trial is allowed the Israelis have summary courts martial without the right of appeal inherent throughout the South African judicial system. Meetings and demonstrations are severely restricted in South Africa, but banned outright in the

whether an occupier or not, fulfils its duty if it freezes its legislation and fails to advance it with the times."

But even Israeli society itself has disturbing parallels with South Africa. Of course the similarities are massive. "Israelis" include Arabs who, unlike black South Africans, enjoy the franchise, boast members of parliament and are not subject to discriminatory legislation such as the Group Areas Act. But examine an Israeli identity document and one is struck by that tell-tale sign of official discrimination. Under "nationality" the document declares one to be "Arab" or "Jew."

Official discrimination

There are three blatant areas of official discrimination in Israel. One is that the Arabs (with the small exception, for historical reasons, of the Druze) are excluded — as opposed to exempt — from military service. A second is that, under a complex system of administration involving the World Zionist Organisation and the linked Israeli Land Administration, State land — representing about 90 per cent of the land in Israel — can only be used for the "benefit" of Jews. The third is that Arabs do not qualify for the "law of return" by which any Jew may claim citizenship and residence in Israel.

Such limitations on Arab rights pale when measured against South African discrimination. Israeli Arabs may anyway be grateful for the excuse to avoid killing, or being killed by, fellow Arabs. And of course there are particular — if not excusable — reasons for both the land discrimination and the law of return, stemming from the role of the Zionism in the establishment of the Israeli state.

But, distant though the parallel may be, such official discrimination has significance, because it underpins the unofficial discrimination which is only too apparent in Israeli society. Israeli Arabs, like black South Africans, complain incessantly of harassment by the security forces; protest at what they see as inadequate funding of Arab as against Jewish schools and local authorities; battle to find accommodation in the wealthier residential areas ("for members of the armed forces" is the euphemism used in newspaper advertisements for "Jews only"); are discouraged from inter-marriage (it is not possible for a Muslim to marry a Jew in Israel, although foreign marriages, including Mexican postal weddings, are recognised), and face social ostracism in places of public entertainment.

And prejudices are reinforced by public statements from Jewish religious leaders, such as the declaration by the Sephardi Chief Rabbi, Mordechai Eliahu: "It is forbidden to sell apartments in Eretz Yisrael — not even one apartment." Or the appalling statement by the leader of Zikhron Ya'akov, Rabbi Yekuti Azri'eli, which is effectively a paraphrase of one of the most notorious statements by the architect of apartheid, Hendrik Verwoerd: "The Arab Nation should not be granted education. If they are allowed to raise their heads and will not be in the condition of hewers of wood and drawers of water, we will have a problem."

In 1948 Israel declared its independence with the ringing declaration that the new nation "will be based on the principles of liberty, justice and peace as conceived by the prophets of Israel." As such it was intended to be, as in Isaiah, a light to the world. Where civil liberties are concerned, black South Africans may be forgiven for failing to see the beacon.

Continued from page one

Regent underlines interest in boosting Soviet-Arab ties

Hussein's continued endeavours to achieve Middle East peace and His Majesty's defence of Arab causes. Kharachev also paid tribute to Prince Hassan's efforts to bolster ties of friendship between the Soviet Union and Jordan and conveyed to the Regent greetings from Soviet Muslim scholars.

Kharachev voiced support for Prince Hassan's ideas concerning openness and cooperation among various societies, and briefed the Crown Prince on dialogue between state and religion in the Soviet Union.

Kharachev noted that he had met with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and agreement was reached on Jordanian-Soviet coordination in religious and

cultural affairs.

Kharachev and the delegation visited the Martyrs Monument Sunday.

Earlier, in a meeting with the Soviet delegation, Upper House of Parliament member Bahjat Talhouni lauded the unique relations binding the Soviet Union with the Arab Nation in general and Jordan in particular.

Talhouni said Jordan highly appreciates the Soviet Union's stand in support of Arab causes.

Talhouni, chairman of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, said Jordan had been exerting strenuous efforts on the regional and international levels for achieving just and comprehensive Middle East peace through an international conference attended by all concerned parties and U.N. Security Council members. He noted that the Soviet Union was a staunch supporter of Jordan's views with regard to Arab-Israeli peace.

Talhouni also referred to Jordanian-Soviet cooperation in parliamentary affairs since 1969 following a Jordanian parliamentary delegation's visit to the Soviet Union.

Kharachev said the King's visit in December to the Soviet Union led to further strengthening of bilateral relations in all fields and resulted in both sides sharing identical views on numerous international and regional issues of mutual concern.

The Soviet Union realises that Islam is a religion of peace and

justice and it believes in the Arab Nation's sincere endeavours towards just and durable peace in the Middle East, Kharachev said.

He said the Soviet Union also realises that it is Israel that continues to lay obstacles in the path of peace.

Kharachev reiterated his country's support for the Palestinian people's struggle.

Kharachev and the delegation were guests of honour Saturday night at a banquet hosted by Khayyat. Addressing the banquet, Kharachev called for further cooperation between Arab Muslims and Soviet Muslims and said the Soviet government was keen on allowing Soviet Muslims to exercise their religious rights.

Shultz speaks of 'promising package' for Mideast

was still seeking to assess their widely divergent ideas.

"We have not yet reached a stage of give-and-take, of what would you do in exchange for this or that point," Ben-Aharon told reporters.

Syrian stand

On Saturday, Syria told the U.S. official that his proposals for a Middle East settlement were unacceptable.

"We did not reach any agreement," Shultz said after a three-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, which followed a similar meeting in Jordan.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharara, who also met with Shultz, said after the discussions: "We expressed our opinion in an open and frank way. No agreement was reached."

After returning to Israel late Saturday, Shultz said he had not given up hope on his plan.

"The idea in negotiations of this kind is to get people to be realistic," Shultz said. "We are not there yet."

A major obstacle Shultz encountered in trying to work out an agreement Saturday concerned U.S. opposition to the involvement of the Soviet Union and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in negotiations for peace.

Sharara said the Syrians listened carefully to Shultz's ideas.

"A solution to the problem of the Middle East cannot be reached without the elimination of the Israeli occupation of all occupied Arab territories and safeguarding of Palestinian national rights," Sharara said.

The U.S. plan Shultz is presenting calls for immediate talks on Palestinian "self-rule" and negotiations by December on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Syrian side found that these ideas do not lead to a comprehensive peace formula," Syria's state-run television said.

However, U.S. officials accompanying Shultz said Assad had told the secretary that he was willing for further talks.

'Withdrawal as prelude'

The semi-official Egyptian newspaper Al Gomhouriya said Shultz has suggested a limited Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories as a prelude to negotiations in December. It gave no further details and Egyptian officials were not immediately available for comment.

U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner informed Foreign Minister Abdul Meguid about the new American proposals, the newspaper said without elaborating.

A Palestinian official in Cairo repeated remarks made by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Tunis Saturday that Shultz's new proposals constituted a new conspiracy ignoring Palestinian rights.

Zohdi Kudra, head of the PLO office in Cairo, also said in a statement that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories made their position clear to Shultz Saturday when they demonstrated in the occupied territories demanding their legitimate rights.

"The Palestinian people gave Shultz their reply with their blood when Israeli troops killed four and injured more than 100 people who demonstrated calling for their rights and sovereignty over their own land," Kudra said.

"The United States' intransigent position against Palestinian rights proves it is taking the Israeli side and as such a partner in the massacre of the Palestinian people and not a partner in the peace process," Kudra added.

To mark Shultz's visit, about 3,000 Israelis attended a rally in Jerusalem Saturday night demanding negotiations on peace between Israel and Palestinians, while hundreds of Israeli rightists held a separate rally.

The rightists, led by members of the Gush Emunim (bloc of the faithful) settlers' movement, oppose ceding any occupied land in exchange for a peace agreement.

Settlers, soldiers storm village, kill 3

Victim recounts beating

One of the two Palestinians who was filmed by CBS as Israeli soldiers systematically beat him said Sunday that one of the soldiers hit him on the head with a helmet inscribed in English "born to kill."

"I asked him his name," said 21-year-old Osama Judi. "He showed me (the inscription) and then he began to beat me with the helmet."

A CBS news crew surreptitiously filmed on a hillside in Nablus as soldiers beat Osama and his 17-year-old cousin Wa'il Judi for 40 minutes Thursday.

The film, in which soldiers kicked the two Palestinians and hit them repeatedly with a rock, caused an uproar in the United States and Europe.

Both Osama and Wa'il denied they had thrown stones at the soldiers, but a CBS employee who saw the incident said they were part of a large group battling the soldiers.

Israel's West Bank commander, Major-General Amram Mitzna, Sunday forced officers to watch the film and vowed the army would not become "a mob force."

The soldiers caught Wa'il first and began to beat him, the two said in an interview with Reuters.

"Then they caught me," Osama said. "They said 'we'll break your hand, we'll break your body'... the rest you saw on television."

Osama studied computers before his college was closed because of the uprising. He said he

had never been arrested before. Wa'il, a secondary school student, was imprisoned twice in the past two years for throwing stones, he said.

The two said they were herding the family's goats and sheep home Thursday when they met the soldiers. Other Palestinians had been throwing stones from another hill at about the same time, they added.

Each young man had a badly bruised arm — one was in a sling. After the beating, they were brought to an Israeli jeep and taken to two different prisons.

"There is something important," said Osama. "When we were brought to the car, another soldier, when he saw our bodies and the blood, he began to cry."

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Katarina Witt

Winter Olympics close with dazzling colours

CALGARY (AP) — The Winter Olympics, which opened with a folksy salute to Canadian traditions, was to close Sunday with a high-tech burst of glitz and colour on an outdoor skating rink.

Springlike temperatures of recent days threatened to fizzle the finale, but the weather promised to oblige.

The show will be illuminated from a computer-controlled lighting system made up of thousands of powerful bulbs mounted on four towers seven stories tall.

"This is it. This is the biggest show in the world. How many other shows play to 2.5 billion people?" said Marc Raymond, handling the lighting of the show at McMahon Stadium. "It's going to be a burst of colour."

Just as they did with the opening ceremony, organisers are keeping details of the closing a secret.

What is known is that it involves hundreds of skaters, including U.S. Olympic gold medalists Dorothy Hamill and Scott Hamilton and Canada's Toller Cranston, a bronze medalist in 1976.

There also will be fireworks, a flag exchange between the mayor of Calgary and the mayor of Albertville, France — site of the 1992 Winter Games. The Olympic flame which burned for 16 days will be extinguished.

The ice inside McMahon stadium had to be protected from several days of 10-degree C (60-degree F) weather by a layer of plastic foam.

The skaters weren't worried about the condition of the ice, but the possibility that winds would batter their jumps and spins, said Leanne Pockar, an assistant working on the programme.

"Windy conditions are very hard to deal with for skaters in a choreographed programme. With the costumes the skaters are wearing, a strong wind would make it very difficult for them to get into position quick enough," she said. "We can handle anything but the wind."

Forecasts called for temperatures around freezing (32 degrees F) and for moderate winds of about 16 kilometres per hour.

Mayotte to defend indoor title against Fitzgerald

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Defending champion Tim Mayotte of the U.S. and 16th seed John Fitzgerald of Australia posted straight set victories Saturday to reach the final of the \$602,500 U.S. Pro Indoor tennis championships.

Mayotte, the second seed, recovered from 2-5 down in the second set to avoid a third set and eliminate sixth-seeded South African Christo van Rensburg 6-2, 7-5.

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Tomba and Witt emerge as king of snow and ice queen at Calgary

CALGARY (Agencies) — Alberto Tomba and Katarina Witt have emerged as the uncrowned snow king and ice queen of the Calgary Olympics, which end Sunday in a dazzling burst of colour.

Each, though, had to fight off daring rivals Saturday to protect their titles.

Tomba, gold medalist in the giant slalom, defeated Frank Woerndl of West Germany Saturday by a bare six-hundredths of a second in the closest slalom race in Olympic history.

Witt managed to hang on to her Olympic championship Saturday night although she was outperformed in her strongest discipline — the free skate — by Canada's surprising Liz Manley, the darling of the hometown crowd who had been expected to finish no higher than third.

Competition was to end Sunday, fair weather or foul, with the finals of the four-man bobsled, the wind-disrupted individual Nordic combined, ice hockey contests to decide the silver and bronze medals after the Soviets clinched the gold, and women's 5,000-metre speed skating.

The closing ceremony was set for 7:30 p.m. (0230 GMT Monday).

Because gusting winds made ski jumping too dangerous Saturday, both the jumping and cross-country legs of the Nordic combined were being run on the final day — or not at all.

The Soviet Union, shut out of medals for the second time in as many days, still was looking for one more to beat its record haul of 27 set at Innsbruck in 1976. Witt's gold and a silver and bronze in speed skating raised the tally of second-place East Germans to 22, including nine golds.

Pirmin Zubriggen of Switzerland, originally seen as a contender to beat the triple gold medal performances of Austria's Tony Sailer and France's Jean-Claude Killy in past Olympics, finished seventh in Saturday's slalom, leaving him with one gold in the downhill and a bronze in the giant slalom.

The 21-year-old Tomba, subjugated the giant slalom and slalom

courses on Mount Allan and having won the hearts of his Italian countrymen, looked forward Saturday to a "sleepless night" of celebration and a meeting with Witt.

"She is very nice and I really want to meet her," said Tomba, who once more demonstrated his knack for getting what he wants.

Tomba "la Bomba" (the bomb) wanted at least two medals and got them. He wanted a red Ferrari from his wealthy father and has the promise of that, too.

On Saturday night, he got his meeting with the 22-year-old Witt at the Olympic Saddledome.

But the backstage encounter, in front of a television camera, lacked storybook quality. Both were seen exchanging polite greetings through Carlo Fassi, a former Italian figure skating star who is now a U.S. coach.

"I couldn't understand him because he spoke Italian, but it was fun to meet him," Witt remarked of Tomba.

"I don't think he knew much about figure skating," she added. "But then I don't know much about his sport either."

Witt, dressed in her tight red and black skating costume, broke off the chat to watch the long programme of American Debi Thomas, who up to then had been regarded as Witt's main rival.

As it turned out, Witt outcarried Thomas and Manley outjumped Witt in Saturday night's long programme. Witt, though, won her second-straight gold on the basis of better scores in the compulsory and short programme.

The East German world champion superbly executed routine to the opera "Carmen" which the American could not match in a free skating final billed as a battle for gold between the two.

Thomas, deposed as world champion by Witt last year, made a couple of telling mistakes in her routine to music from the same opera and dropped to third as Manley sprang the surprise of the night to snatch silver.

Norwegian Sonja Henie was the last and only other woman to retain the title when she collected her third successive gold in 1936.

"I believe I had the stronger nerves," Witt said as she clutched a bouquet of long-stemmed roses and talked with an East German television interviewer. "It happened like this last year at the world championships."

She congratulated Manley "for skating so well in front of her home crowd" and said her coach,

men's 50-kilometre cross country. He called it "probably my greatest victory," Italy's Maurizio de Zolt won silver and Switzerland's Andy Grunfelder, bronze. For the first time in eight cross-country races, the Soviets failed to win a medal.

Dutch skater Yvonne van Gennip became a double gold medalist and set an Olympic record of two minutes, 0.68 seconds, in the women's 1,500-metre speed-skating race. East Germany's Karen Kania, the defending champion, won silver, giving her eight medals overall in three Olympics — the most ever by a female speed skater. Her teammate Andrea Ehrig was third in the 1,500.

Defending champion Wolfgang Hoppe of East Germany took a 0.53 seconds lead after the first two of four heats in the four-man bobsled competition. Soviet driver Janis Kipours, who upset Hoppe in last weekend's two-man event, was second.

Van Gennip's victory was her second of the games — she also won Tuesday's 3,000 metres — and leaves her poised to join Finland's Matti Nykaenen as the only triple gold medalists here by winning Sunday's 5,000 metres.

In hockey, Canada kept slim medal hopes alive with a 6-3 victory over Czechoslovakia, already out of medal contention. The Soviet Union clinched its seventh hockey gold in nine Olympics Friday night.

Van Gennip's time beat the mark of 2:03.42 set by Kania in 1984 but was short of the world record of 1:59.30 that the East German established in 1986.

1988 Winter Olympics

Jutta Mueller, deserves the "greatest share for my success."

"And of course, my parents supported me all the way. They gave up a lot. I believe this victory pays them back a little."

A downcast Thomas, waiting for her marks, told coach Alex McGowan: "It's over. Back to school."

She later added: "I'm not going to make any excuses. I was really skating well this week. It wasn't supposed to happen, I guess. But I tried."

Manley was so sensational in the freestyle that she finished first with seven judges. Because she was only fourth in compulsory figures and third in the short programme, however, she only took the silver medal.

Sweden's Gunde Swann, winner of four medals in 1984, reaped second gold as he won the

Switzerland takes bobsled gold

CALGARY (AP) — Swiss veteran Elkhart Fasser upset defending gold medalist Wolfgang Hoppe of East Germany to win the gold medal in the four-man bobsled Sunday at the Winter Olympics. Hoppe took the silver medal and Janis Kipours of the Soviet Union claimed the bronze by nipping Brent Rushlaw of the United States by two-hundredths of a second.

The bronze gave the Soviets their 28th medal of the games, a Winter Olympics record. East Germany is second with 23 medals, and the Swiss are third with 14. This was their first non-Alpine gold.

Barcelona scores upset victory

MADRID (R) — Two goals by England international Gary Lineker helped Barcelona stage an upset win against Atletico Madrid while Spanish soccer league leaders Real Madrid were held to an away draw by Seville.

Barcelona's win Saturday was a big blow for second-placed Atletico's hopes of catching up with Real who, despite stumbling against Seville, now sit on a comfortable six-point lead.

Barcelona, who had looked in danger of being overwhelmed in the first half hour, came alive in dramatic fashion in the 31st minute when West German midfielder Bernd Schuster broke away down the left wing before crossing the ball for Lineker to slam into the net from close quarters.

Eight minutes later Lineker came close to scoring again with a shot from just inside the penalty area but Atletico's goalkeeper Abel Resino managed to deflect the ball for a corner.

Atletico's attacking trio of Julio Salinas, Marcos Alonso and Portuguese star Paulo Futre, who had looked dangerous in the opening stages, were unable to find a winning combination.

Lineker put the result beyond contention 10 minutes after the interval when he took advantage of a mistake by Atletico defender Juan Arceche to break through and fire a shot past Resino.

Barcelona coach Luis Aragonés pulled off Lineker to rest

the striker ahead of Barcelona's UEFA cup quarter final first leg clash away against Bayern Leverkusen next week.

Former Real player Cholo Ruiz belted past Seville ahead against the champions after half an hour with a shot which Real goalie Paco Buyo fumbled and dropped before Seville striker Jose Salguero pounced and netted the ball.

Real midfielder star Emilio Butragueno scored a brilliant equaliser shortly after the interval, running on to a pass from Gordillo and sending a rising shot past Seville's goalkeeper.

Despite taking complete command of the midfield, Real, who face Bayern Munich in a European Cup quarterfinal next week, could not clinch the winner against a determined Seville side.

Three goals by Sebastian Losada, on loan from Real Madrid, helped sweep Espanol to a 4-2 victory over Real Valladolid.

France

In Paris, Matra Racing Paris went second, overtaking Bordeaux, with a 1-0 home victory over Lens Saturday in the French soccer league.

The win moved them to within three points of leaders Monaco, who managed only a goalless draw Friday.

Ben Mabrouk scored the goal that beat lowly Lens and nudged Racing Paris ahead of Bordeaux,

Napoli maintains lead

who found home advantage no advantage at all as they were held 0-0 by Paris Saint-Germain.

Bordeaux's international midfielder Jose Touré was taken to hospital after a seventh-minute clash of heads and the European Cup quarter-finalists failed to recover from the early blow.

League leaders Monaco have made a disappointing start to the second half of the French season. In the first game after the winter break last week they drew 0-0 at Niort and they surrendered another point at Laval Friday night.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

Marseille, France's other European survivors who play Finnish club Rovaniemi in the Cup Winners' Cup, took over fifth place with a 1-0 win at Saint-Etienne, now only one place above them.

West German Bernd Forster, with a fierce 20-metre drive, scored Marseille's winner.

On an evening when nine matches produced just 14 goals, the highest scoring game involved Brest and Le Havre, the two sides propping up the first division.

Brest beat the Bottom club 3-1, driving Le Havre closer to relegation while lifting them towards safety. They are now just one point behind Paris Saint-Germain.

Napoli maintains lead

ROME (R) — A single goal from Bruno Giordano at Pescara ensured defending champions Napoli kept their five-point lead at the top of the Italian First Division Sunday.

But A.C. Milan stayed in contention with a 2-1 win over Sampdoria, in spite of playing without their European Footballer of the Year Ruud Geffin. The Dutchman was serving a

one-match suspension.

Giordano scored Napoli's 1-0 win with his goal in the 40th minute, frustrating local hopes that a predicted sign from the Virgin Mary, which brought thousands of pilgrims to Pescara Sunday, would also bring fortune to their football team.

In the event, both the pilgrims and the local football fans were disappointed as neither prediction was fulfilled.

Milan's goals came from Antonio Virdis in the seventh minute and Paolo Maldini in the 70th after Fulvio Bonomi had equalised for Sampdoria in the 17th.

Third-placed Roma won 2-0 at home to Juventus.

Navratilova, Shriver clash in Washington finals

WASHINGTON (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova defeated fourth-seeded Australian Hana Mandlikova, the defending champion, 6-4, 6-2 Saturday to set up a final against doubles partner Pam Shriver of the U.S. at the \$300,000 Washington tennis tournament.

Shriver, seeded second, earlier eliminated third-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini 7-5, 7-6 in the other semifinal.

Navratilova, number two in the world, took the first four games of the match, breaking Mandlikova in the first game on a double-fault and in the third with well-placed return.

Mandlikova got one service break back in the sixth game, but Navratilova served out the set, holding off two break points in the 12th game.

Navratilova, winner of titles in Dallas and Oakland this year, broke Mandlikova in the third and fifth games of the second set and was never threatened on her own serve.

Navratilova, who has an overwhelming 35-3 lifetime record against Shriver, was not satisfied with her showing.

"Beating Hana is good, but I didn't serve as well as I wanted to, but I think the big difference was that my second serve is better than hers," said Navratilova.



Martina Navratilova

Shriver, ranked No. 4 in the world, fired seven aces in eliminating the third-seeded Sabatini in one hour, 37 minutes. Shriver lost her serve twice in the first five games, but held the rest of the way to dispose of the 17-year-old Argentine.

Shriver opened the match by blowing a drop shot at 30-40 to fall behind, but broke serve twice to take a 3-1 lead. Sabatini then registered another break, and the players stayed on serve until the final game of the set.

Down 5-6, Sabatini misfired on three straight backhands to dig herself into a 0-40 hole. She battled back to get to deuce, but then hit a forehand that soared past the baseline to give Shriver her fourth set point.

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Egyptian tourism minister departs

AMMAN (Petra + J.T.) — Egyptian Tourism Minister Foad Sultan Sunday ended a four-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

During the visit, the minister met with Jordanian Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni and other officials and discussed with them Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in tourism-related affairs.

In a statement, quoted by the local press Sunday, Sultan said

that Jordan and Egypt are currently involved in setting up a joint tourist company with a \$40 million capital.

Sultan said that the private sector in both countries will be allowed to own shares in the projected company in which Jordan and Egypt will hold equal contributions.

Sultan said that he held very fruitful meetings with Ajlouni

during which they discussed different aspects of promoting the tourism industry in Egypt and Jordan through initiating joint ventures.

Sultan also took part in a Jordanian-Egyptian businessmen meeting held in Aqaba last Thursday. Ajlouni and other Jordanian officials were at the airport to bid farewell to Sultan and his accompanying delegation.

Local firm wins concession to prepare, market poultry meat and table eggs

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian company which prepares and markets poultry meat has won a 25-year government concession to set up and operate poultry slaughterhouses in the Kingdom, in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Sunday.

Under the agreement, the company will abide by government regulations and specifications for its operations and for selling poultry meat at government-approved centres.

The company will also be empowered to set up its own centres for grading and selling table eggs

within the company's concession zone.

According to the agreement, the minister of supply will fix the prices which the company will abide by in buying and selling poultry meat and table eggs.

The agreement stipulates that the company's margin of net profit should range between six and 12 per cent to enable the company to distribute dividends to shareholders.

The agreement provides for the government to supervise the work of the company and maintain control over its administration and financial operations.

In return, the government will not issue licences for any poultry farm to produce poultry meat or table eggs except after obtaining the company's approval and in light of the interests of the national economy.

The government also pledges to refrain from importing poultry meat or table eggs except when local production becomes incapable of meeting the market's needs. In this case, the company will be entrusted with the task of importing defined quantities for the market.

The company, in return, will undertake the process of supplying the local markets with poultry meat and table eggs and, according to the terms of the agreement, it will have seven years to carry out its projects which include setting up five slaughterhouses and three centres for grading table eggs.

Local farmers will supply the company with poultry meat and eggs which will be graded, packed and distributed by the company in the local market through a number of marketing centres.

As to the existing poultry slaughterhouses, they will be purchased by the company within the seven-year period.

The agreement was signed for the government by Industry, Trade and Supply Minister Hamdi Tabbara and for the company by the chairman of its board, Salem Al Lawzi.

The company, which was established in September last year, with an initial JD 9 million capital has already embarked on setting up a poultry slaughterhouse in Dufail in the Zarqa region. This slaughterhouse which will be operational early next year will have a daily production capacity of 30 tonnes.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trading exceeded half-a-million dinars Sunday as some heat warmed up activities at the market.

Jordan-Gulf Real Estate Investments accounted for 180,563 shares valued at JD 59,586 out of the overall trading of 473,289 shares amounting to JD 521,306. However, the real estate company, at 39, ranked second in terms of number of contracts after Intermediate Petrochemical Industries (IPI) which registered 42 contracts.

Other companies which recorded a high volume of trade were Cairo-Amman Bank at JD 60,143; Petra Bank at JD 56,150, the National Steel Industries at JD 47,753 and IPI at JD 37,072. Jordan Lime and Silicate Brick Industries recorded 48,750 of shares changing hands.

Shares of 53 companies were traded Sunday. Prices were mostly steady except for Cairo-Amman Bank shares which traded as high as JD 30,000 and as low as JD 29,250.

Trading in development bonds was minimal involving 400 bonds at a value of JD 4,100.

At the parallel market, 3,732 shares were traded for a total of JD 1,760.

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1988

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Wright Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you recognize your daily schedule, be sure to leave room for unexpected extra duties. A benign and happy atmosphere will continue throughout the day, improving your mood considerably.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19): Don't let anyone interfere with your desire to use your creative talents. Don't take any risks or jeopardize your safety in any way.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20): If you've made plans for an activity with your family, change them at this late date could cause considerable discord at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21): Get your shopping and errands finished early today, even if they are a little harder than you had thought. Take care of important communications.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21): You can get some fine results if you follow the suggestions of a financial adviser. Pursue an important personal desire tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21): Work on improving your appearance, then get out socially tonight for a great time with friends. Don't let anyone ruin your wonderful mood.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22): A covert activity requires your immediate attention, so get at it first thing this morning. Show your mate you are loyal and devoted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A friend who is usually quite supportive of you is busy today, so be more self-reliant. Enjoy a favorite hobby this evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): If you want to meet with a powerful person, the evening is the best time for this. Be sure to obey all rules and regulations which apply to you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't try to drop in on anyone unexpectedly, as they would not appreciate the surprise; if you pay a visit, make an appointment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20): Don't expect, or insist on, much attention from your mate during the day, as this person is very busy, but the evening should be romantic.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19): You can get out of an unsatisfactory arrangement with an associate if you use some tact and humor. Don't risk your reputation tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20): Your work may begin on an unhappy note this morning, but muddle through and you can accomplish a great deal by the end of the day.

THE Daily Crossword by Martha J. De Witt

ACROSS

- Cats and dogs
- Hog's cousin
- Invitation letters
- Uncommon
- Cover of a
- Dueling
- Baking place
- Climbing plant
- Scary demon
- Boat
- Drugs
- Skin
- Carried on
- Helped
- Drinking only
- Tubes
- Wingless
- A. Gator
- War god
- Antifreeze
- Beast
- So-so grade
- Men
- Out of funds
- Made beloved
- Came back
- Corby
- Mrs. Charles
- Marching
- Record of events
- Mohammedan commanders
- Approaches
- Courage
- Yellow
- Ant old style
- Luxurious or costly
- Filing
- Printing errors
- Fabric worker

DOWN

- Golf teachers
- Root edge
- A - Crown in Brooklyn
- Witchman
- Flair
- MacDermot of
- Impress
- Lepidoptera
- Kids of tubs
- Legible
- Rash motorist
- Blood vessel
- Throw stones
- Sound for a villain
- Burt the folk singer
- Transfer
- Hurriedly
- Lovely
- Motorists' hazards
- Car engraver
- Summons
- Collected
- Fallen leaves
- Ascended
- Disciplinarian
- Put in order
- Servant
- Set fire to
- Expanded
- Brown bread
- Foe
- Role
- Exchange
- Umbrella
- Horde
- Hickory
- Ingredient
- Marguerite name
- Old-time car

Saturday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. CATS AND DOGS
2. HOG'S COUSIN
3. INVITATION
4. UNCOMMON
5. COVER OF A
6. DUELING
7. BAKING PLACE
8. CLIMBING PLANT
9. SCARY DEMON
10. BOAT
11. DRUGS
12. SKIN
13. CARRIED ON
14. HELPED
15. DRINKING ONLY
16. TUBES
17. WINGLESS
18. A. GATOR
19. WAR GOD
20. ANTIFREEZE
21. BEAST
22. SO-SO GRADE
23. MEN
24. OUT OF FUNDS
25. MADE BELOVED
26. CAME BACK
27. CORBY
28. MRS. CHARLES
29. MARCHING
30. RECORD OF EVENTS
31. MOHAMMEDAN
32. COMMANDERS
33. APPROACHES
34. COURAGE
35. YELLOW
36. ANT OLD STYLE
37. LUXURIOUS OR COSTLY
38. FILING
39. PRINTING ERRORS
40. FABRIC WORKER

DOWN

1. GOLF TEACHERS
2. ROOT EDGE
3. A - CROWN IN BROOKLYN
4. WITCHMAN
5. FLAIR
6. MACDERMOT OF
7. IMPRESS
8. LEPIDOPTERA
9. KIDS OF TUBS
10. LEGIBLE
11. RASH MOTORIST
12. BLOOD VESSEL
13. THROW STONES
14. SOUND FOR A VILLAIN
15. BURT THE FOLK SINGER
16. TRANSFER
17. HURRIEDLY
18. LOVELY
19. MOTORISTS' HAZARDS
20. CAR ENGRAVER
21. SUMMONS
22. COLLECTED
23. FALLEN LEAVES
24. ASCENDED
25. DISCIPLINARIAN
26. PUT IN ORDER
27. SERVANT
28. SET FIRE TO
29. EXPANDED
30. BROWN BREAD
31. FOE
32. ROLE
33. EXCHANGE
34. UMBRELLA
35. HORDE
36. HICKORY
37. INGREDIENT
38. MARGUERITE NAME
39. OLD-TIME CAR

Ghor Safi, 3 nearby villages to spend JD 23m in five years

KARAK (Petra) — A total of JD 22.928 million will be spent on development schemes in the southern Jordan Valley regions between 1986 and 1990, according to Ghor Safi District Governor Abdul Karim Malahmeh.

He said that the projects are intended to enable local inhabitants increase their income through developing agriculture and exploiting the underground water resources.

Out of this sum, he said, a total of JD 19.583 million will be spent on electric and agricultural projects in the district.

Malahmeh noted that the southern Jordan Valley regions include the Ghor Safi town and the villages of Fufa, Diraa and Ghor Mazraa.

AMO notifies agricultural traders of import export plan for March

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Sunday issued a bulletin in which it named the types of vegetables and fruits which can be exported or imported by Jordan during the coming month.

It said that merchants can export all types of vegetables and fruits and can import all agricultural products except sage, dates and chestnuts. The bulletin made it clear that imports of apples, onions, garlic can only be transacted through the Jordanian Marketing and Processing Company.

Income tax course explains new procedures for deductions, returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day training course was held recently at the Department of Income Tax for some of the department's employees. Accountants working in the public and private sectors were also invited.

According to "Tax Brief," a bulletin published by the accounting firm Dajani and Alaeddin, the aim of the training session was to explain the procedures for the deduction of payroll taxes and the completing of individual tax returns to help save time and effort for both the department and the employers.

The training was held in light of the recent regulation No. (1) of 1987 which was issued to amend regulation No. (8) of 1985. As a result of the new regulation, all employees whose income exceeds JD 100 per month if single, or JD 200 per month if married are liable to submit annual self-assessment returns starting 1986.

The prior regulation No. (8) of 1985 had temporarily exempted the following categories from submitting the self-assessment returns:

A — Employees whose source of income is limited to one employer.

B — Taxpayers whose source of income is limited to one vehicle or one car.

C — Taxpayers whose source of income is limited to commerce and whose capital is less than JD 1,000.

The new regulation amending item (A) above is reproduced as follows:

"Resident employees who enjoy all or some of the exemptions stated in articles (13 & 14) of the Income Tax Law No. (57) of 1985 and whose source of income is from one employer and does not exceed on a monthly basis JD (100) if single or JD (200) if married."

Prominent Jordanian economist attends international forum

AMMAN (J.T.) — The president of the Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) "Jordan", Talal Abu-Ghazaleh will depart Monday to Dusseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany, heading ASCA's first delegation to the board meeting of the International Accounting Standards Committee (IASC) that will be held March 1 to 5, 1988.

The participation in this international body, which is the highest authority for setting and developing accounting standards worldwide, is one of ASCA's major achievements.

ASCA was elected to the board of the IASC during the last IFAC's international congress, in Tokyo in October 1987 with the participation of 99 accounting bodies from 74 countries.

The Arab Society of Certified Accountants (ASCA) "Jordan" aims through its participation in the board of this internationally important committee to establish an effective Arab presence.

ASCA delegates include: Fouad Alaeddin of Arthur Anderson & Co. and Munir Al-Borno of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co.

On the agenda of IASC Board discussions are reports by the specialised subcommittee on financial reporting and comparisons. They will also discuss forming a subcommittee for the harmonisation of application of accounting standards worldwide and the work plan for the coming five years.

School projects in Salt likely to cost JD 1.5m

SALT (Petra) — The overall cost of schools and educational centres, currently under construction in the Balqa Governorate is estimated at JD 1.5 million. Balqa education department director Sa'oud Mahmoud said these projects, scheduled to be completed during the current year, comprise four secondary schools for boys and another nine for girls in addition to expanding the premises of the Salt Valley Preparatory School.

Municipalities get loan to open, pave new roads

SALT (Petra) — The Cities and Villages Development Bank has agreed to grant a JD 25,000 loan to municipal councils of Hindeib and Za'atari districts of Balqa Governorate. The loan will be utilised to open and pave new agricultural roads in the two districts.

Jordan to take part in conference on administration

AMMAN (Petra) — Institute of Public Administration (IPA) Director Abdullah Ulayyan left for Cairo Sunday to take part in a conference on administrative development in the Arab World.

Ulayyan said he would present to the conference a working paper on training leaders of manpower management and Jordan's experience in conducting seminars in higher public administration.

While in Cairo, Ulayyan will sign the statute of a newly formed Arab society of specialists in administrative development which will open a branch in Amman next year.

Minister passes Grandal, Mu'ab 1988 budgets

TAFLEH (Petra) — Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Minister Yousef Jabbar has approved of a JD 50,000 budget for Grandal municipal council in the Tafleleh district.

Grandal Mayor Mohammad Ghanem said that the funds will be spent on purchases of land for public use, lighting streets, and building water reservoirs.

The minister also approved of a JD 112,319 budget for the Mu'ab municipal council in the southern regions of Jordan. The Mu'ab funds will be spent on road building, purchases of land for public use and other municipal services.

The minister also approved tenders for building and asphaltting roads at the cost of JD 59,500 in the Karak and Ajloun governorates.

GATT predicts 4% growth in world trade during 1988

GENEVA (R) — International trade, led by a sharp rise in shipments of manufactured goods, grew by four per cent last year and seemed set to match that rate again in 1988, the world trade body GATT reported Monday.

The forecast was made "barring a further upheaval in financial markets or a serious recession in the United States," the annual report by economists of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said.

The 1987 growth rate of four per cent marked a slight improvement on the 3.5 per cent in the previous year and was the second strongest annual increase since 1981.

Damage to consumer and investor confidence after the stock market crisis of last October appeared less severe than originally forecast, the report said.

Developments in world stock markets since October do not seem to have had any immediate adverse effect on world trade," Richard Blackhurst, GATT chief economist, told Reuters.

Rather, available data suggested that the jump in merchandise trade in the fourth quarter of 1987 exceeded the average rise for the first three quarters.

The value of merchandise exports last year leapt by 15.5 per cent to a record \$2,450 billion.

This reflected trade expansion, as well as an increase in the value of the U.S. currency and higher dollar prices for petroleum and other primary commodities, the report said.

Referring to the huge U.S. current account deficit and surpluses in Japan and West Germany, the report said: "If 1988 sees progress in reducing the large current account imbalances, there would be an added boost to investor confidence in the functioning of the world economy."

The increase in the volume of world commerce in 1987 was led by a five per cent increase in trade in manufactures, against 3.5 per cent the previous year.

Agricultural trade surges

Exports of agricultural products rose by an estimated four per cent in volume — after a nine per cent decline in 1986 — for the strongest gain in a volume basis since 1981.

"These two developments more than offset a marginal decline in trade in mining products in 1987," the report said. A drop in petroleum trade, due to a sharp recovery in prices, largely accounted for the decline in overall trade of mining products.

Global agricultural production declined by an estimated three per cent — for the first time since 1950. This was partly due to lower market prices, lower support prices and supply control measures for cereal and dairy products in some nations.

Japan and China increased their agricultural imports substantially, the GATT economists said, but gave no figures.

U.S. import of manufactured goods slowed in 1987, the report added, but again gave no figure.

The growth rate in merchandise trade increased by a modest 2.5 per cent against a whopping 11 per cent the previous year.

U.S. exports rose by 11.5 per cent in volume.

West German imports of merchandise expanded by 5.5 per cent, against 6.5 the previous year, while exports rose by three per cent against 1.5 per cent in 1986.

Import volumes expanded rapidly in Portugal and Spain, new members of the 12-member European Community.

Preliminary data indicated significant declines in import volumes in Norway, Denmark and Australia.

Analysts expect further decline in price of oil

NEW YORK (R) — Crude oil prices, which fell by around \$1 a barrel last week, could slide another 50 cents in the coming week due to abundant world supplies, analysts say.

The U.S. benchmark grade of crude oil, West Texas Intermediate, closed at a 1988 low of \$15.78 a barrel Friday for April contracts traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX). Over the past week, the April contract lost 92 cents a barrel.

"Crude prices could fall to the \$15 to \$15.50 a barrel range in the

short-term. At that point there may be renewed interest to buy," said Ray Marchica, oil futures analyst with U.S.-based Cargill Investor Services.

In Europe, widely traded Brent field crude from the North Sea Brent ended Friday at \$14.47 a barrel for immediate delivery — its lowest since November, 1986 — and \$14.95 for April contracts.

Marchica and other U.S. analysts said, however, they did not expect either a major slide in prices or any extreme over-production

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"He got up at 5:00 AM to go jogging. He poured hot coffee in his sneakers to wake up his feet."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CHARP

SMACH

ZARABA

LIMUHE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIKER ADULT MUSEUM PURVEY

Answer: What they called that great magician — A SUPER "DUPER"

Philippine rebels kill 13, spark massive offensive

By Ruben Alabastro
 Reuter

MANILA — Communist rebels killed 13 of the Philippine's elite anti-guerrilla scout rangers on a remote mountain road in the year's bloodiest rebel strike, military reports said.

The attack Saturday sparked a massive "search and destroy" operation by troops and helicopters rushed to the Bicol region on the southern tip of the main island Luzon.

Rebels blew up the army truck with a battery-operated landmine in the mountains of Albay province, 320-km south-east of Manila.

"All 13 were wiped out. Now we're trying to seal off the villages to prevent their (rebels) escape," area Chief of Staff Colonel Romulo Yap said by telephone.

The military casualties were the highest in a single incident this year.

It came a week after government troops killed 14 rebels in

three encounters in Bicol where many of the interior villages are known to be rebel strongholds in the 19-year insurgency waged by the communist New People's Army (NPA).

The army poured several battalions into the area late last year after rebels blew up bridges and power pylons and hijacked a passenger train.

The 13 soldiers, all members of the elite anti-guerrilla Scout Ranger Battalion, were led by a lieutenant, son of the northern Luzon military commander, Brigadier-General Felix Brawner.

Brawner flew in to collect his son's body Sunday, Yap said.

In another incident, a civilian was killed and seven people wounded Saturday when a team

of soldiers and a militia unit fired on each other in a village on central Negros Island, the Philippine News Agency reported.

Each side thought the other was an NPA squad.

On Mindanao, Colonel Antonio Nale denied reports in Manila newspapers that 150 people were killed in clashes Friday between warring Muslim families in Lanao Del Sur province on the southern island. Nale said the only incident was a shootout between soldiers and Muslim separatists which left six Muslims dead.

Southern commander Major-General Cesar Tapia dismissed as "all rhetoric and propaganda" reports that the Moro National Liberation Front was preparing to resume the largely dormant separatist rebellion.

"We have very good relations with their (MNLF) commanders so I don't expect trouble," Tapia told reporters.

A government-MNLF truce has been in effect in the area since last year, marred occasionally by small-scale clashes.



THE LAST EMPEROR... Bernardo Bertolucci directing Wu Tao who plays the emperor Pu Yi as an adolescent. The film on the life of the man who went from ruling China at the age of three to tending botanical gardens in his mid-fifties has taken off, with four Golden Globes (Best Film, Best Director, Best Script, Best Original Score), nine Oscar nominations, and box office records smashed across the world.

S. African death toll rises to 40 in Angola

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The official South African death toll has risen to 40 since its latest intervention in the Angolan civil war, amid hints from Havana that Cuba is considering withdrawing its forces.

Pretoria announced on Sunday that two more soldiers had been killed in southeastern Angola, where heavy fighting has raged around the government base of Cuito Cuanavale.

South African planes and long-range artillery have been supporting pro-western UNITA rebels against Marxist Angola's Cuban-backed army in some of the biggest battles of a 12-year-old civil war.

Pursuing its usual tight-lipped policy, defence headquarters gave no details of the deaths except that the two men had been killed last Thursday by "indirect enemy fire."

South Africa moved thousands of men into Angola last October to help UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, turn back a government offensive.

Pretoria cites the presence of an estimated 40,000 Cubans in

Angola to justify its military involvement and refusal to grant independence to neighbouring, South African-controlled Namibia.

Cuban President Fidel Castro hinted over the weekend at a possible quick Cuban pullout from Angola if Washington and Pretoria stopped backing UNITA and cleared the way for Namibia's independence.

"I think that in the near future steps will be taken to overcome the misunderstanding that exists," he said in an interview on U.S. television.

The United States announced this month that the principle of a Cuban pullout had been accepted at talks between Angolan, U.S. and Cuban officials in the Angolan capital of Luanda.

South Africa voiced scepticism over the apparent breakthrough. Foreign Minister Pi Botha said Pretoria was ready to attend an all-party conference on Angola-Namibia but indicated it first wanted firm assurances of a Cuban withdrawal.

In the interview, Castro said the misunderstanding was not insurmountable.

U.S. jet executive breaks around-the-world record

HOUSTON (R) — An American aircraft executive and his three-man crew flying a corporate jet set a new eastbound around-the-world speed record Saturday, breaking the mark set last month by a charity benefit flight.

The plane's pilot, Allen Paulson, already holds the westbound trans-global record.

The 19-seat Gulfstream IV jet, dubbed "pursuit of perfection," landed at Houston's Hobby Airport at 8:27 p.m. to finish the trip in 36 hours 8 minutes.

The old record, set last month by an American Boeing 747-SP on a charity flight, was 36 hours 54 minutes, said Paulson, who is

chairman and chief executive officer of Gulfstream Aerospace Corp. of Savannah, Georgia, manufacturers of the record-breaking aircraft.

"Everything couldn't have been better. The winds were cooperative. We had a redline all around the world," the 65-year-old pilot said, referring to the "redline" maximum speed sought for the record.

The jet averaged 636 miles per hour (1,025 kph), according to Everett Langworthy, an official with the U.S. National Aeronautical Association who accompanied Paulson for verification purposes.

Jet crashes in Siberia

MOSCOW (AP) — An Aeroflot passenger plane on a 2,600-km flight across the western Soviet Union crashed and burned early Saturday while landing at its final stop in Siberia, killing some passengers and injuring others, TASS said.

The Soviet news agency quoted a local aviation official as saying the Tupolev-134 "fell onto the airfield, broke apart and burned" while landing at the city of Surgut, an oil and petrochemical centre on the Ob river about 2,000 kilometres east of Moscow.

"Unfortunately, there were victims," TASS said.

It said the TU-134 was carrying 45 passengers and six crewmembers, but did not specify how many people were killed and injured in the crash, the third reported in the Soviet Union this year.

The crash occurred shortly after 4 a.m. Moscow time (0100 GMT), TASS said.

Within two minutes, fire engines and rescue vehicles were at the crash site giving first aid to the injured. TASS quoted the local deputy chief of civil aviation, Yuri Evreinov, as saying,

TASS said 15 emergency service vehicles were sent to the Surgut airport to evacuate victims, and that they were taken to two hospitals that had been prepared to receive them.

Eight experienced doctors were also brought in from the regional centre of Tyumen, and local doctors and blood donors mobilised, TASS said.

TASS said the flight originated in the Byelorussian capital of Minsk, with stops in the Volga basin industrial city of Kuibyshev and Tyumen, a Siberian oil city, before a final scheduled landing in Surgut, a city of more than 150,000 people located in western Siberia.

Calm returns to Armenia

MOSCOW (R) — Calm returned to the southern Republic of Armenia Sunday as leaders of protests calling for the redrawing of regional boundaries gave Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev a month's grace to deal with their grievances.

Residents of the republic's capital, Yerevan, told Reuters by telephone that the streets were quiet. Moscow Radio said Saturday that leaders of the protests had suspended their mass demonstrations for a month.

Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in Yerevan last week to demand the return to Soviet Armenia of Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian region administered since 1923 by the neighbouring Republic of Azerbaijan.

Two Armenian envoys who outlined the protesters' grievances to Gorbachev said on television in Armenia Saturday evening that the Soviet leader was

studying the call to return the disputed region to Armenian control.

Yerevan residents said poet Silva Kaputikyan and writer Zori Balayan told viewers they had spent more than an hour explaining to Gorbachev the history of Nagorno-Karabakh and why Armenians were making claims to it.

Kaputikyan said that this is an old problem and now Armenians are speaking openly because of the atmosphere of glasnost, "one resident said. Glasnost is the Kremlin's policy of openness about the country's problems."

Gorbachev promised the Armenian representatives the problem would be "justly solved," the residents said.

The Kremlin leader appealed Friday for calm in Armenia and in Nagorno-Karabakh.

About three-quarters of Nagorno-Karabakh's residents are Armenian, a people of long-standing christian tradition.

Armenians say many resent being under the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan, a republic with a predominantly Muslim culture.

The Soviet Union's first deputy prosecutor, who was among Kremlin officials sent to the region, denied that any Armenians had died in clashes in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Prosecutor Alexander Katusev made the denial in an interview published in the Feb. 26 issue of the Armenian communist party daily Kommunist, which reached Moscow Sunday.

"There was a rumour about the murder of 60 people of Armenian nationality, but the fact is that no one of Armenian nationality was a victim of murder," Katusev was quoted as saying.

A Kremlin envoy sent to Yerevan, junior Politburo member Vladimir Dolgikh, said Thursday that there had been "victims" in clashes between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in Nagorno-Karabakh, but did not elaborate.

Noriega de facto ruler in Panama

By Bernd Debusmann
 Reuter

PANAMA CITY — Panama's latest political crisis has highlighted the weakness of domestic opposition to General Manuel Antonio Noriega and diplomats here say it is unlikely to be forced from power soon.

Noriega faced an unprecedented constitutional challenge to his de facto rule Thursday when the country's figurehead civilian president, Eric Arturo Delvalle, announced he had decided to dismiss the general as head of the armed forces.

Within hours, Panama's parliament met in emergency session and fired Delvalle instead, saying his move violated the constitution and had been inspired by the

United States.

The cabinet named a new president, Education Minister Manuel Solis Palma, and commanders of the 16,000-strong armed forces declared their solidarity with Noriega.

"Noriega made very astute moves," said a European ambassador. "He had apparently expected a manoeuvre to get him out, he was prepared for it, and he came out on top."

After saying he still considered himself Panama's legal president, Delvalle eluded a tight military guard round his home, climbed over a fence and went into hiding.

In Washington, the Reagan administration declared it still recognised Delvalle. But diplomats here thought he had virtually no hope of being restored to

the presidency.

"Delvalle has no power base and little credibility as an opposition figure," said a Latin envoy.

While he served as nominal president, Delvalle showed no sympathy for the civic crusade, an anti-Noriega movement which last year sought to hasten the end of military rule by organising demonstrations of mostly middle-class Panamanians who waved white handkerchiefs at the guns.

Last year, Delvalle repeatedly attempted to ban anti-Noriega demonstrations, branding them subversive attempts to undermine the government.

The crusade ran out of momentum when the government responded with force, using teargas and shotguns against demonstrators who had no taste for violence.

Mitterrand's stand could split NATO

PARIS (Agencies) — French President Francois Mitterrand's unwillingness to back a NATO call to modernise short-range nuclear weapons in Europe could disrupt unity at an alliance summit this week in Brussels.

His stand, in contrast to the United States, Britain and even his own government, could also have repercussions on the forthcoming presidential election in which he is widely expected to be a candidate.

The French president said during talks in Dublin last week with Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey that he was "not in favour" of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation modernising nuclear missiles in Western Europe.

Political commentators and disarmament experts said he was referring to discussions on implementing a 1983 NATO programme to modernise its short-range nuclear weapons, most of which are based in West Germany.

The issue is expected to be one of several disarmament topics discussed when NATO's 16 leaders meet in Brussels Wednesday and Thursday.

The summit will not take any decisions on short-range weapons and NATO diplomats say the allies have already agreed to skirt around the modernisation issue in deference to widespread opposition in West Germany.

Bonn has expressed misgivings about upgrading the weapons, which have a range of up to 500 kilometres, and has called for

talks with the Soviet Union on reducing their number.

Analysts said Mitterrand's decision to speak out before the summit may be motivated by France's two-round presidential election, scheduled for April 24 and May 8.

Mitterrand will announce after the summit whether he intends to stand for another term. Conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, who will also attend the Brussels summit, is among the declared candidates.

"Risking popularity"

Diplomats said, however, that Mitterrand would risk his current high standing in public opinion polls if he pressed the issue in Brussels.

Other NATO members oppose talks on short-range weapons with the Soviet Union pending reductions in conventional arms, in which they say the Soviet Union holds a considerable advantage.

Chirac, in an interview published Friday in the magazine l'Express, said removing short-term missiles would be a disaster for Europe.

He sought to play down the importance of the Brussels summit, saying it was an opportunity to display unity within NATO ranks before a new superpower summit later in the year.

France pulled out of NATO's integrated military structure in 1966 and has since pursued its own defence programme, based on an independent nuclear strike force.

The French daily Le Monde said Saturday Mitterrand's move appeared to be aimed at keeping the disarmament process rolling rather than letting NATO leaders gloss over controversial subjects.

"He seems to be saying that at a time when there appears to be a real willingness on the superpowers' parts to advance the disarmament process, it is a bad moment to start talking about modernising nuclear arms," it said.

President Ronald Reagan will join NATO leaders at the summit designed to cement the solidarity of the 16-nation alliance and strengthen his hand for arms-control bargaining with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

With the exception of an opening statement the first day and closing remarks Thursday, all of the sessions will be in private.

Thorny problems on basing rights for U.S. military forces as well as West German reluctance about modernising short-range nuclear weapons are expected to remain on the shelf as NATO leaders try to highlight areas of agreement.

Reagan spoke hopefully of the outcome Saturday, telling a national radio audience in his weekly address that he wants to assure NATO allies that "America is ready and willing to stand with them to keep the peace with freedom that we have gained together through the alliance these past 40 years."

A senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "Anything that comes out ought to show that the

alliance is strong and that everybody is working together and moving together basically in the same direction."

"Nobody's going in there looking for confrontation," the official added.

Countering public relations

The meeting offers a chance to review how to deal with the challenge to NATO by Gorbachev's public relations offensive to give him the image of a champion of peace and disarmament.

The problem of the Warsaw Pact's overwhelming superiority in conventional military forces will have a "very central place" in the talks and be the subject of "a lot of time," said one official, speaking at a White House briefing on condition of being identified only as a senior administration official.

However, it was understood there was difficulty in producing a hoped-for statement on conventional weapons because of disagreement about what should go into it.

Sensitive questions on the pace of modernising battlefield nuclear weapons in Europe will be looked at only broadly, the official said, with nuts-and-bolts discussions left for meetings of defence ministers and foreign ministers.

Likewise, the official said "it would be a perilous way to go" to have the leaders tackle differences over U.S. bases in Spain, Greece and Portugal. Instead, those problems will be left to negotiators who have been working on the issue.

COLUMNS 7&8

30 whales beached on U.S. coast

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Thirty pilot whales beached and died on gulf of California coastline in what appeared to be a natural phenomenon, a government biologist said Saturday. "They are whales that normally beach in large groups," said Luis Fleischer, director of the Fishing Department's Natural Marine Research and Conservation Programme, in a telephone interview from Baja California. He said the 26 male and four female whales beached about five days ago on a five-kilometre stretch of coast in northern Baja California, between Bahia de Los Angeles and Bahia de San Francisco. "The cause is not known," he said, adding research would be done to determine if weather conditions or other factors were responsible. "They all are dead now and in an advanced state of decomposition."

Pandas' bamboo crisis improving

BEIJING (AP) — China's giant Pandas, which have faced extinction since 1983 from withering supplies of bamboo, their dietary staple, have survived the worst of the crisis, an expert said. Forestry Minister Gao Dezhao said new bamboo have started to grow in Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu provinces, where more than 250,000 metric tons of bamboo have flowered and withered since 1983, the official People's Daily (Renmin Ribao) reported Saturday. However, he cautioned that the threat to the Pandas' survival was not over, pointing out that the animals do not care for young bamboo. Gao called on the leaders of the three provinces, who were attending a meeting in Beijing Friday on China's most beloved animal, to continue to guard the Pandas' safety. The giant Panda is native only to the three provinces in central and southwestern China and rarely breeds in captivity. China's Panda population, now just under 1,000, has been declining for the past five years because a rare flowering cycle of the arrow bamboo caused large amounts of the plants to wither and die. At least \$2 million in donations from around the world have been sent to China through the world wildlife fund to save the dying Panda.

Morocco rockslide kills 25

FEZ, Morocco (AP) — Heavy rains caused a rockslide Saturday that killed at least 25 people in a squatters' camp, and rescue workers were searching through tons of mud and rock for more victims. A week of rains loosened the mud and rock walls hanging over the camp and caused them to fall before dawn. The camp is in an old quarry outside Fez, which is about 200 kms east of the capital, Rabat. Police said 21 bodies were recovered early Saturday and another four were found in the afternoon. At least six people were hospitalised with serious injuries, they said. Several hundred inhabitants of the squatters' camp were evacuated to emergency centres around the city.

Exploding snail burns woman

SYRACUSE, New York (AP) — A woman celebrating her birthday was burned and temporarily blinded by a snail that exploded on her plate at a city restaurant, police said Saturday. Karen J. Prouty, 36, of North Syracuse, was about to take her second bite of a bubbling order of escargot Friday night when one of the snails exploded, burning her around her right eye, police said. She couldn't see for about 90 minutes afterward. "I just immediately broke down crying," Prouty said Saturday. She was treated at University Hospital in Syracuse and released Friday night. The dinner at Fiasco's Wine Bar and Restaurant was a birthday surprise arranged by her husband and sister, Prouty said. The restaurant's owner, Charles Pascale, assured her he would pay for any medical expenses and for damage to her white linen dress, Prouty said. He also offered her a free dinner. Pascale told police the snail probably was blown apart by the pressure of steam building up in an air pocket. "I enjoy escargot, but I probably will be very hesitant to order it again," Prouty said.

Italian porn star leaves after arrest

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Italian porn star and Member of Parliament Ilona Staller better known as Cicciolina, decided to leave Belgium after being arrested for 16 hours for indecent exposure. "I leave free but disappointed," she was quoted as saying by an organiser of her Brussels show. The nude performer was arrested at the end of her first night club appearance in Brussels early Saturday after leaving the stage and overstepping the bounds of decency, according to Belgian standards, a police spokesman said, adding that she had been warned. She spent the rest of the night and the day at Brussels police headquarters and was released around 6 p.m. She was elected to the Italian parliament last year as representative for the radical party. Marco Pannella, former chairman of the party, said in a press release here that she would not have been in trouble if she had not been a member of the Italian parliament. Pannella said her arrest was "obscene, not her show which I did not see and in which I am not interested." He added he would protest against laws and regulations "which hurt common sense and human rights."

Malaysian doctor claims wife no. 80

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — An 84-year-old Malaysian witch doctor specialising in love charms married this month for the 80th time. Pak Awang told the daily Malay Mail that love and marriage were in the hands of God. Pak Awang, who said he had lost touch with many of his innumerable offspring, added that most of his marriages ended in divorce although some of his wives had died. The witch doctor has done his bit for racial integration in the multi-racial South-East Asian Nation, having married Malays, Chinese, Indians and Pakistanis. Wife no. 80, 39-year-old Puan Mariam Bahaman, told the Malay Mail she was "a one-man woman and hoped to keep it that way."

Man inherits village from relative

SOUTHWICK, England (AP) — A 52-year-old surveyor has inherited 30 farms and the entire village of Southwick including two pubs, two churches, a post office and 67 houses from a distant relative he hardly knew. Robin Thistlethwayte said he was astonished when he was told that Eva Borthwick-Norton, who died last week at the age of 96, had left him her 7,500-acre estate in Hampshire, about 60 miles southwest of London near England's south coast. "Although I had only met her a handful of times I think she must have felt I was the best person to leave it to," Thistlethwayte was quoted as saying in Friday's Times of London. "I have a lot of experience in running agricultural estates with traditional standards of farming and I intend to continue with the traditions as far as is possible in the 20th century," he said. The estate had been in the Thistlethwayte family for 250 years until Lt.-Col. Evelyn Thistlethwayte left it to his nephew, Hugh Borthwick, in 1943. Following his death in 1950, his widow took over its management.

China smashes grave robbing gang

PEKING (R) — Police in northern China arrested 11 people for robbing a 2,700-year-old tomb of priceless artefacts, the Workers Daily newspaper said Friday. The gang broke into a tomb archaeologists were excavating in Pingdingshan, Henan province, the paper said. Police recovered 234 bronze urns, statues and funeral objects as well as 70,000 yuan (\$19,000). Antique smuggling has become a serious problem for China. Most artefacts are sold to dealers in the Portuguese-run territory of Macao or British-run Hong Kong.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
 AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE LURE OF OVERTRICKS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 7

♥ Q 7 6 5 2

♦ K J 10 6 4

WEST

♠ 9 5 4

♥ K Q 8 6 3

♦ 10 A K J 9 8 3

♣ 9 8 5 3

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 8 2

♥ A 7 2

♦ 4

♣ A 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 D

3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Ten of

The rubber bridge player usually

doesn't give a tinker's hoot about

overticks. If he makes a couple, all

well and good; but the contract's the

thing. On the other hand, to the du-

PLICATE (ital) aficionado (end ital)

overticks can be all-important.

That gives clever defenders the op-

portunity to exploit declarer's

greed.

This hand is from the Life Master

Pairs event at a recent North Ameri-

can championship. North's one no

trump response was forcing. Note

South's decision to bid his weak

four-card heart suit in preference to

a jump rebid of spades he did not

want to risk losing a possible heart

fit.

We've led his singleton in his part-

ner's suit. Sitting East was Tom

Snow, business manager of New

York's prestigious Cavendish Club.

He won the jack of diamonds and